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WORK FOR AUGUST.

Ere we commence the detail of work to be performed this month, we desire to call the attention of our readers to a few subjects which we deem of vital importance to the agricultural interest, and not the least so do we consider the

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

This Exhibition will take place on the 10TH, 11TH, and 12TH DAYS OF OCTOBER NEXT, a season of the year well timed, to enable farmers and planters of our own and other States, to bring the products of their farms and plantations to the exhibition, without materially interfering with the labors of the field, and, as such is the case, we indulge the fond hope, that every one who may have anything worthy of being seen, whether in the form of oxen, sheep, swine, milch cows, horses, beef cattle, mules, jacks, jennets, the products of the fields and the gardens, poultry, agricultural tools and implements of all descriptions, fruit and flowers, will feel himself, or herself, called upon by the motives of patriotism and personal ambition, to contribute to the show. If such motives prevail, the next Maryland State Agricultural Fair will be equal to any other exhibition of the season. To ensure a result at once so flattering to the pride of agriculturists and artisans, each and every one, must be animated more by the desire of being contributors to the noble enterprise, than of bearing off the premiums, and each must look upon his own productions as worthy of being seen by the vast multitude that will be congregated upon the occasion. In an especial manner do we look to the fair wives and daughters of farmers and planters, to urge their husbands and fathers on to the performance of their duties, and we feel, that, in making this appeal to them, they will respond to it with that energy and spirit that have ever marked the acts of woman, for it is in the nature of the sex, never to be chary of their energies, when noble and generous enterprises were to be achieved, or good works to be performed.

The Crops.—So far as our information extends,

taking the whole range of the States of our Union, we are inclined to think, that the wheat crop, in the aggregate, will turn out less than an average one. Many heavy crops have been made, but there have been many others little better than failures—the oats crop we believe to have been generally good, as has that of hay—tobacco will not turn out more than two-thirds of an average—rye has been better than usual—barley, a fair average—as to cotton and rice, we are not sufficiently posted to speak in anything like definite terms—corn, by the help of the fine rains lately, will be a fair crop.

Markets.—The last advices from Europe represent a decline in the price of corn and corn meal, while wheat and flour had advanced; demand for breadstuffs generally good.

Having concluded our introduction, we will now call attention to certain matters to be attended to

ON THE FARM.

Sowing Rye.—The earlier this grain is gotten in the better prospect will there be of its succeeding well. In most instances this grain is allotted to light thin soils, in which neither the elements of mineral or nutritive manures exist, and then, because the yields are light, the grain is condemned, when, in fact, the fault lies in the sower,—lies in the fact that he had not provided it anything to eat—for it is a truth, that rye, like everything else that grows, requires nourishment. We are aware, and readily admit the fact, that light lands suit rye best, but then, this lightness of soil has regard to its texture alone, and does not imply that the soil also shall be poverty stricken—exhausted and worn-out. Rye, to be sure, requires less fertility in the soil than wheat, but still, it is necessary that there shall be something in the earth besides sand where it may be grown. In its straw, there is a very large per centum of silica, but before that can enter therein, the sand must be dissolved by potash, and reduced to a consistence to be taken up by the roots of the rye plants. If, therefore, the field on which rye is to be sown, has been long in culture without having been treated to ashes, lime, or marl, the conclusion is a reasonable one, that its mineral constituents have been nearly exhausted, and it is equally reasonable to conclude, that they should be resupplied. How this is to be done, is a question of some moment. A moderate dressing of cow dung would furnish nearly, if not all, that rye requires, but as there are many who have not that manure to

give, or not perhaps the time to haul it out and spread it, we will suggest, that a compost formed, in the proportion to the acre, of 5 bushels of lime, 5 bushels of ashes, 2 bushels of bone-dust, 1 bushel of salt, and 1 of plaster, if thoroughly mixed together and applied, to even thin poor land, would ensure a good crop of rye, and carry a clover crop after it. The compost above spoken of, is, of course, to be applied to the surface and harrowed in with the grain when seeded. And as we do not wish to be misunderstood, we will here remark, that we do not prescribe it as an application calculated for a permanent improvement of poor soil, but as the ensurer of a crop of rye and the setting of clover. The clover once set, should, to carry it prosperously through its allotted time, receive a dose of 25 bushels of lime the first season, per acre, and be treated to a bushel of plaster also. Two hundred pounds of Guano, ploughed in, with a top-dressing of 5 bushels of ashes, would also answer.

Preparation of the Ground.—Plough deep, turn the furrows flat, and harrow thoroughly.

Quantity of seed per acre.—The quantity of seed usually sown, per acre, is 4 pecks, we prefer to sow 5 pecks.

Preparation of the Seed.—We usually soaked it from 12 to 24 hours in salt brine, made strong enough to float an egg, and as we were about to sow, drained off the brine, and mixed ashes, lime or plaster with the seed, so as to divide and render them easy of distribution.

Covering the Seed.—This may be done either with the plough, cultivator or harrow—our method was to use the plough, and cover the seed from 2 to 3 inches, then harrow, and roll. Whatever implement may be used, the work should be completed with the roller.

If the rye should prove *luxuriant* and *rank*, it should be grazed in *early spring* with sheep and calves, but not with heavy stock.

Setting Timothy.—We prefer to sow timothy as early as possible this month, so as to allow the plants time to become well rooted before the frost sets in, and thereby enabled to resist the uprooting influence of the altering freezings and thawings of winter and early spring. Where the sowing may be delayed until *late*, we would advise that a peck of buckwheat, per acre, be sown at the same time with the timothy seed. The first frost will strike down the buckwheat to the earth, where it will remain to protect the young timothy plants from the winter's frosts, and also serve by its decomposition and shade to encourage their subsequent growth, and thus repay for any nutrimental or mineral substances it may have extracted from the soil during its short existence.

Preparation of the Soil.—The ground should be heavily manured, deeply ploughed, harrowed and cross harrowed, so as to ensure to it the finest possible tilth.

Quantity of Seed per Acre.—From 8 to 10 quarts of seed per acre is the right quantity. Care must be observed to see that the seed is fresh, well cleaned, and unmixed with weed or other seeds.

Seeding.—Let the seed be equally distributed, lightly harrowed in with a garden or seeding harrow, then lay off your water furrows and finish by rolling cross-wise.

Manure.—It is proper here to remark, that, if the ground in which you purpose to sow timothy has been long in culture, and you have a right to presume that it is destitute of lime and potash, it will

be necessary for you to give it a top-dressing of lime or marl, and apply, also, a few bushels of ashes previous to sowing the seed—20 bushels of bone earth, per acre, would answer in the place of either lime or marl. If stable or barn-yard manure be applied, less than 20 double-horse cart loads should not be considered a good dose. A compost formed of marsh mud, lime, or marl, mould from the woods and plaster, would make an excellent manure for timothy. 400 lbs. of guano, ploughed in, and a top-dressing of 50 bushels of ashes, would ensure four or five good successive crops of timothy hay—no one, however, must calculate on a luxuriant growth of this grass, unless he give it food to eat—while no one should be without a sufficient number of acres in timothy, to afford a plentiful supply of hay for all his horses and animals of labor. It is not only a hay which is well relished, but is, withal, highly nutritious.

Turnips.—The sowing of turnip seed should not be delayed beyond the 10th of this month, and if you wish to be successful—if you desire a large yield—you must manure your ground heavily, plough it twice, the first time as deep as your team can sink the plough; the second time, about half the depth of the first ploughing: the ground, after each ploughing, must be thoroughly harrowed and cross-harrowed, so as to reduce it to the finest possible tilth.

Manure and Manuring.—Good cow dung that has been protected from bleaching and leaching is, possibly, as good as any other kind, and the better for being partially or wholly decomposed. A compost formed of 20 loads of marsh or river mud, 50 bushels of lime, and 25 bushels of ashes, will ensure a good crop. A compost of 20 loads of woods mould, 50 bushels of lime, and 25 bushels of ashes, will also ensure a good crop. These substances must be thoroughly mixed together, by being worked over, and applied in the proportion of 20 double horse cart loads per acre, just before the second ploughing, and be ploughed in not more than 3 or 4 inches. 20 bushels of bone dust and 10 bushels of ashes will form an excellent dressing: these substances should be mixed together; and just before you sow your seed, top dress the ground with the mixture; after sowing the seed, harrow all in together, and finish by rolling. A light garden harrow must be used: in the absence of such an implement, a bush may be used; we, however, are averse to the use of this latter implement, except as a *make-shift*—a condition which a farmer's pride should protect him from. 200 lbs. of guano, 2 bushels of salt, and 1 bushel of plaster, would produce a good crop: this mixture to be ploughed in 3 inches deep, to be followed with a top dressing of ashes and lime, at the time of sowing the turnip seed, composed of 10 bushels of ashes and 10 bushels of lime. Two barrels of agricultural salts, we have no doubt, if harrowed in with the seed, would produce a good crop of turnips.

Preparation of the Seed.—Soak the seed, 12 or 24 hours, in fish oil. When about to sow the seed, drain off the oil, and dry the seed in ashes, 7 parts, flour of sulphur, 1 part.

Quantity of Seed per Acre.—One pound, if distributed by a quick eye and skilful hand, will answer; it is, however, safest to sow 2 lbs. to the acre.

After Culture.—Watch closely for the coming up of the plants; and so soon as they show their heads above ground, let a careful hand go through the patch, mop in hand, and sprinkle fish oil over them, to be followed by another with a mixture of plaster

and ashes; which he must strew over them. These processes must be repeated *each morning*, early, until the plants get into the *rough leaf*. As soon as the plants begin to bottle, say when the bulbs are of an inch in diameter, run a light harrow through the turnips: this will weed and partially thin them. In a week from that time, hand thin them, so as to let the plants stand 6 or 8 inches apart, and stir and weed the ground with the hoe. In a week or ten days from this working, stir the ground again with the hoe, taking care to exterminate all weeds and grass, and you may lay by your turnip crop, with the assurance, the season permitting, of harvesting a generous yield. We have sometimes, at the first working, sown 2 bushels of salt and 2 of ashes, per acre, over our turnips, with the best effects.

Granaries.—All granaries, before having any grain stowed away in them, should be thoroughly cleansed. The floor, walls and ceilings should be washed with strong ley, white-washed and thoroughly dried before being used.

Corn Houses and Barns.—These should be treated in the same way.

Poultry Houses.—Care must be taken to keep these free from vermin. Wash the nests with ley, white-wash them, inside and outside, and put fresh hay in them.

Potatoes.—Your late potatoes will require working: see that no weeds or grass rob the tubers of their food; keep the ground well stirred and clean, and give the vines a dusting of equal parts of unleached ashes, lime, salt and plaster, at the time of giving them the last working. We do not recommend this as a *nostrum*, as we do not happen to belong to that faith; but we are very sure that the mixture will prove beneficial. A bushel of the mixture, made of equal parts of each, will answer for an acre.

Stubble Fields and Pastures.—Mix 1 bushel of ashes, 1 of plaster, and 2 of salt, and sow over each acre of your stubble fields and pastures.

Fences.—As the pastures will be growing short, and your cattle restive, carefully examine every panel of your corn field fences, and, if they need it, give them thorough repairing. Bad and ricketty fences are provocative of assaults; for, though dumb beasts cannot reason, their instinct enables them to discover the weak points in an enclosure; and hunger, the effect of short commons, tempts them to break in and destroy. When we recommend you to examine your fences, we do not mean that you should have it done by another, but that you should do the inspection *yourself*, and with your own eyes: trust this duty to no one, however faithful and trustworthy he may be.

Ploughing for Wheat.—Though too early to seed, it is fully time that all grounds intended for wheat, except such as may be in corn, should be ploughed. In ploughing, recollect that you cannot plough too deeply with any ordinary team on your farm. If the field you are about to break up for wheat is a grass sward or clover ley, be sure to take narrow slices, and turn them down flat, so as to cover up, beyond the possibility of vegetation, all seeds of grass and weeds. We merely mention this subject now, but shall treat the growth, proper manure and culture of wheat, fully and freely in our next month's remarks. We will, however, now observe, that we think all grounds, except where clover leys and meadows may be broken up, would be the better of second ploughings and repeated pulverization, as there is no crop that, probably, requires a and finer deeper tilth, and that the grain is always

better where the soil abounds in lime, potash and phosphoric acid.

Thrashing out Grain.—We have ever been the advocate of early threshing out grain, and equally so that the grower should avail himself of the first opportunity which may present itself of selling it *advantageously*. By such a course, he secures himself against loss alike from his poultry and vermin, and from *shrinkage*—a loss that, we are sure, amounts to at least 20 per cent. where the threshing, cleaning and sale may be delayed 6 or 8 months, as is frequently the case.

Drilling in Wheat.—We are convinced that putting in wheat with a drill is not only the preferable plan, but that a great saving of seed may be effected by it, and an increased product obtained. To sow a 100 acre field broadcast, as it ought to be, will require 200 bushels of seed; whereas 125 bushels, if put in with the machine, will answer fully as well, thereby saving 75 bushels in seeding 100 acres. The ridge raised by the machine protects the plants through the winter; and in spring, if the roots should be thrown out, many, if not most of them, will be covered by the crumbling down of the ridges. All that would be necessary to render this certain, would be, in the spring, to pass a roller over the field, as soon as the frost was out of the ground and the soil dry, as the pressing down, or compression of the ridges, would necessarily cover up most of the roots that might be found exposed upon the surface, and thus ensure their taking root and growing. Besides, the intervals between the drills would secure a free circulation of air through the plants while growing, and be particularly serviceable in preventing, to a very great extent, the grain from rust. If the cause of this disease be atmospheric, and we believe it is, the free circulation of air could not fail to be productive of the good we have claimed for it.

Bushes, Shrubs, Sprouts, Briars, Weeds.—If your farms are annoyed with these pests, set a hand, or two to work to cut them down; have them put in piles, and when dry, burn them. Attention to these duties for a few years, would rid you of such annoyances; besides your good example would set your neighbors to work, so that, in a short time, your neighborhood would be the theme of the praise of every passer by, while the products of your fields would be greatly improved in value. Cleanliness in the culture of one's farm, is as conducive to pleasure and profit, as cleanliness in one's person, is to human health.

Sheep.—Provide yourself a trough, place it under cover in your sheep pasture, keep in it at all times tar with salt strewn over it, and you will protect your sheep from that destructive disease called "Worms in the head"—recollect that "prevention is better than cure," and so recollecting, fail not to provide salt and tar for your sheep, for besides saving them from the particular disease named, they will be greatly improved in their vigor. If there is no running water in your pasture, see that your sheep are daily supplied with fresh water, as it is essential to their comfort and health.

Milk Cows and Heifers.—Call to these the services of a full bred bull, of good points and milk yielding strain. If served this month, they will bring forth in May, and have the advantage of the early spring grass, a thing of vital importance to a cow with a young calf. By the way—have you a pasture well set in various grasses for your milk cows? If not, set apart a sufficient number of acres

to allow to each cow in milk two acres; stock it well with timothy, orchard grass, Kentucky blue grass, sweet scented vernal grass, red top, and red and white clover seeds, let it remain untouched one year, and from that time you will have a pasture that will enable you to excel all your neighbors in the rich, delicious, nutty flavor of your butter.

Late Corn.—If you have been prevented from giving the last working to your late corn, do so without delay; but be sure to use the cultivator.

Accumulation of Manure.—Now is the time to collect the materials for increasing your stock of manure. Without particularizing, we will say that any substance that will rot, will make good manure. Set a hand, with a horse and cart, to collect and form all such substances into compost.

Orchards.—Examine these for decayed limbs, and treat them as we have long since advised you; then give your trees a painting with a mixture of soft soap, salt and sulphur; that done, turn your pigs into your orchard, to eat the fallen fruit.

Wet Lands.—This is an excellent time to ditch and drain, and you should improve it. Cart the dirt excavated from open ditches into your cow yard, to be there manufactured by your cows into good manure, each cart load of which, next spring, will be worth equally as much as the same quantity of stable dung.

SHEEP-KILLING DOGS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—At a late meeting of the "Inspecting Association for Talbot County," a committee was appointed to draft a Report upon Sheep-killing Dogs; and after a few amendments, the enclosed met with the approbation of the association; and the Secretary ordered to request a publication of it, in the American Farmer.

SAMUEL CHAMBERLAINE, Sec.

Clord's Point, January 9, 1849.

The committee appointed at a late meeting of the Farmers' Inspecting Association of Talbot County, for the purpose of inquiring into the propriety of laying a tax upon the numerous dogs which infest this, as well as other counties of the State, greatly to the detriment of the sheep growing interest, beg leave to submit to the Association the following views and suggestions, after giving to the subject a patient and careful investigation.

Your committee have reason to believe that there can be no difficulty in procuring the passage of an act yielding the fullest protection to sheep husbandry; and which at the same time in its operation will be calculated to benefit a great majority of the community, without having an unjust and discriminating bearing in favor of any one portion.

Whilst other pursuits seek zealously after legislative measures which are to advance some selfish project, the farmer has reason to congratulate himself that it is seldom necessary for him to ask any favour at the hands of his representative, which will not promote the general welfare. Maryland stands deservedly high for her large and valuable agricultural products; but besides the advantages of her naturally fertile soil, her numerous navigable waters, and the iron bands which strongly bind together the various sections of the State, she possesses another important element of greatness in those rapid streams which, in too many cases, are allowed to pass idly by for the want of the hand of

enterprise to arrest them for the purposes of manufactures.

The abundant production of food gives great advantages to the manufacturer at such places within the State, where a sufficiency of cheap motive power and a supply of the raw material can be procured. Whenever either of these conditions is wanting, the inducements to foster enterprise in our State are lessened, and the interests of every class of our citizens are thus materially affected.

But let us make some special application of these general remarks, and call your attention to the matter in point just now.

Talbot has long been noted for her fine mutton, and much care has been expended by a few persons on the growth of the best kinds, for their own use and for the shambles of Baltimore. Beyond this little has been done, although sheep rearing is acknowledged to be a profitable branch of husbandry upon all lands in the country of whatever grade. Why is so important a staple as wool overlooked by our farmers here in Maryland? Delaware, our neighbour, is wide awake, and her Reybolds and other stirring wool growers, have already a name throughout the country. Is sheep husbandry out of the question here? It is, and the root of the evil is our own improvidence. From an absurd notion that the dog is essential to our comfort we forget how troublesome he becomes to our best interest. Our farmers are excluded from a source of profit, and actually driven from sheep husbandry by "Mongrels, puppies, whelps and hounds." But for sheep killing dogs there would be no deficiency of wool, and this staple would give occasion to manufacturing establishments in our very midst. Home markets for every kind of produce the farmer might then have. The producer and consumer would soon be more nearly equalized, and the farmer would find himself less subject to speculation, the laws regulating supply and demand being more plainly visible than now.

The dictates of the plainest common sense should lead the farmers of Maryland to increase, as far as can be done, the consumption of their various agricultural products within the borders of their own State, and thus to regulate their interests by the known and well recognized principles just cited. The full development of our agricultural resources ought to be the chief aim of our legislators; as just measures conducive to the interest of the tillers of the soil, will surely confer a benefit upon the great mass of the citizens of the State. How far legislative aid may be invoked for the suffering farmer is a nice question. Compensation for alleged losses by dogs in the distribution of the proceeds of any tax on dogs, would open a wide door to fraud, and enkindle jealousy and distrust between the farming and other interests. A high commission under a dog law would be an uncomfortable seat for any one, and no decision could well prove satisfactory.

Lay the tax then; but let the proceeds go to the alms-house of the county; or if needed, let it swell the school fund. Do not let it remain by any fanciful arrangement a bone for contention among farmers, on the question of the comparative value of a recently imported buck from the fairest fields and pastures abroad, and a regular homespun of our rearing in Talbot.

In conclusion we beg leave to suggest that every tax payer or licensed free negro should be made by law to pay fifty cents for the first dog, one dollar for the second, two for the third, and three dollars for

each and every dog over the third. Every white person over twenty-one years of age not taxed might be allowed to keep one dog free from taxation; but any such person should be obliged to pay for all others at the same rate as those persons who are taxed. As to dogs kept by minors or slaves, the parent, guardian or owner, as the case may be, should be made liable for the tax. With regard to fox hounds, any taxable persons keeping four or more should be taxed twenty-five cents for each; it being necessary to keep such dogs in larger numbers than others for the purpose of hunting. For any number less than four, each should be taxed at the same rate as other dogs. All constables giving information of a violation of the law, should receive ten per cent. of the tax lawfully collected from such persons.

It may possibly be alleged that we are suggesting, somewhat prematurely, a law to reach an acknowledged evil. So far from this we are behind other parts of the country. Delaware has a tax upon dogs, and it is said to work well. No one can deny, it is a species of luxurious indulgence, worthy of restraint, when it conflicts with the interests of the community. The dreadful disease that marks the canine breed of animals is a further subject for reflection.

When the slumbers of the traveller, too, passing through our otherwise quiet country villages, are broken by yelps and howls, the district of country suffers in the estimation of such persons, and the whole Eastern Shore is taken for an Arab encampment, with its noise and confusion.

If we will have a regiment of dogs everywhere, it is something like retributive justice, should we be forced to go "to the goat's house for wool." To look for that staple from sheep will be out of the question with the drawback of such natural enemies as these dogs.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
DAVID KERR, JR.,
BENJ. M. BOWDLE,
MARTIN GOLDSBOROUGH.

THOUGHTS ON THE METHOD OF INSPECTING PLASTER.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir: The farming interests of the country suffer from various causes. Scattered as are farmers over a vast extent of territory, they are in the habit of bearing their ills in silence, or, at most, grumbling a little in their own neighborhood, without taking the necessary steps for redress. I propose to point out a few of these ills, in the hope that you will give them a place in your useful journal, because you are sustained by that great interest exclusively; and without it, your paper could not exist.

For many years, the great body of agriculturists have used gypsum extensively; indeed, in many sections of the State, it cannot be dispensed with; and ruin would be regarded as an inevitable result, should any possible concurrence of circumstances occasion its disuse. The article is subject to inspection, like many other staples; and the mode in which that duty is performed is highly exceptionable. I have heard, from good authority, that the mode of inspection is simply by the *touch*—that the inspector pronounces judgment, as if, "ex cathedra," with oracular infallibility, by passing the substance between his fingers, and thereby alone determining its merits.

Now, let no ill will be attributed to the author of

these fugitive remarks: the officer in question is unknown to him, even by name, lineage, politics, or any other thing whatsoever. That the inspector presumes to do what no man can do faithfully and effectually, cannot admit of question. True, he may be walking in the footsteps of his predecessor, and may imagine that he is doing the thing quite right—that, really, nature has endowed him with such omniscience of touch, that he can determine whether twenty per cent. of lime or other foreign substance may not have been introduced. The old plastering of houses torn down, together with other matters, are believed to be introduced and ground up, to swell the bulk; and hence, the hopes of the unlucky farmer, who gets hold of the article thus adulterated, are blasted, or, at any rate, his just expectation disappointed. It may have the unhappy effect, too, of causing many an honest man to arrive at wrong conclusions, viz: that the portion of his farm to which the recent application has been made, is not sufficiently acted on by plaster to incur the expense; or, perhaps, that it is plaster-sick.

In the county of Kent—and it may be done elsewhere—many farmers purchase plaster in its crude state, and manufacture it at home, because it is doubly operative over the same article purchased at our great commercial city, and subjected to the *touch* of the State inspector. Can any stronger evidence, under Heaven, be given as to the truth of the above allegations. Well! beyond all doubt, farmers are the most gullible people on earth; or, at least, they spend their money in the cause of improvement, and if they fail—honest hearted fellows, thinking no evil—hope for better times and better prices.

But it is time to put an end to such imposition—to such dereliction of duty. Let any man calmly count the cost, the loss actually sustained by the whole State—primarily, by the fraud of the manufacturer of this article—secondarily, by the action of the inspector. Doubtless, there are many honest manufacturers of this article; but if all were so, what is the use of an inspector. I have never heard of various grades of plaster, like that of flour, for example, which is manufactured from many varieties of wheat of unequal value; and hence the necessity of inspection. And here, too, Maryland has lost her true position. Will any man pretend to say that Virginia grows better wheat than our own old State? Why is the Richmond brand held in greater repute, abroad, than that of Baltimore? But of this, perhaps, something may be said hereafter.

Thanks to God, we have now a State Society; and many things will be exposed, which have heretofore been sheltered in the darkness of night, or permitted to be perpetrated without exciting the suspicion of those gentle souls, who, in the honest simplicity of their hearts, imagine no evil, and think all men honest, like themselves. There is a time for all things; deception will have its day; but truth is great, and it will prevail. The State Society will look into these matters; committees will be appointed to investigate; reports will be made, and the rights of agriculture maintained. The cultivators of the soil have at last aroused from their Rip Van Winkle sleep (and, God knows, it has been a long one); an impetus has been given, and it will be sustained till a new order of things be produced. There is much intelligence, some science, good blood, good feeling, and most of the virtues which adorn the character of man, residing among the

farmers of Maryland. Their voice will be potential, whenever it takes the proper direction; and the signs are unmistakable, that the time has arrived. We have been trodden under foot long enough, and the day of redemption draweth nigh. All men who cultivate the earth can here meet on one common platform, where not a sigh of the Southerly breeze even will ruffle the calm order of their proceedings; for their object is, truly, the good of the country, and a determination that no one shall make them afraid.

Let all men who own a foot of land—all who cultivate even that which they own not, in the hope of ultimately standing erect on their own soil, and of honestly sustaining a family in their present vocation—aye, all who take an interest in the honor and welfare of the State—(and he who does not, it is time for him to start for California)—cherish and support the State Agricultural Society. Men of different professions may think it is not in their line of business, and, therefore, beneath their consideration, or unworthy of their attention. They may live to see the day when their opinion will be changed, and deeply regret that they had held no helping hand to the struggling farmer. Let every man, who has the ability, pay the small contribution to constitute membership, that every thing may be done on a great scale; and the inhabitants of the neighbor States will congregate in our great commercial city, at the annual Fair, while the eye may be gratified “ad infinitum,” and, above all other things, partake of that superior gratification—the delight of social intercourse. I heard an intelligent gentleman, from an adjoining State, who attended our “Show,” in November last, say—that he had been at many such meetings, but never saw so many intelligent gentlemen, cultivators of the earth, congregated together before—that Baltimore was better situated for such a purpose than any place he had ever seen. I remarked that he was disposed to flatter us; to which he put in a disclaimer, and averred that he was expressing only his candid opinion.

I took up my pen to say something about the impositions which are practised upon farmers. Some other matters were intended to be touched; but, perhaps, you had better take them in broken doses. Should this be deemed worthy of publication, you may, possibly, hear again from

RUSTICUS.

We have received the following communication, upon the same subject:

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

Inquiries having, very properly, been made as to the object to be attained by the inspection of ground Plaster of Paris, it is due to all who are interested in the agricultural application of this article that they should be informed on the subject.

At the Legislative session of 1833, an act was passed providing for the inspection of ground plaster of Paris in the city of Baltimore; by which act, the rights of consumers were designed to be guarded from fraud, both in weight and quality, and the duties of the inspector prescribed. (See chapter 275.) Those duties are to ascertain the weight and quality of plaster contained in each barrel, keg or cask submitted to his inspection, and mark the same on it. This act failed to specify the number of pounds they should contain; but there seems to have been a conventional rule among the grinders, that 320 lbs. should be put in each barrel. Flour

barrels are almost uniformly used. Some of them rarely vary from this weight; but, as there was no penalty attached to the violation of this rule, in some cases it has fallen greatly below this standard, and involved much labor on the part of the inspector to ascertain, in order to mark on the brand its actual weight.

There is considerable difference in the quality of the gypsum or lump plaster that has been brought to Baltimore—some being much richer in sulphate of lime than others; but in no instance, it is believed, since the supplemental act of 1847, requiring the analytical inspection of the article, has any perceivable extraneous matter been introduced by the manufacturers and ground with it.

It is, however, not to be disguised, that among that which is ground in Baltimore, as fine plaster, or fragments broken from the lumps, by being thrown off the vessels that bring it, there is found, on analysing, in numerous instances, from 6 to 14 per cent. of various kinds of insoluble dirt and other matter, and this, too, while the plaster itself is good, and the large lumps, when ground alone, seldom yielding more than from 1 to 3 per cent. Since the passage of the act requiring the analytical inspection of the article, the present inspector has felt it his duty to analyse samples of every variety that have been ground and submitted to him; and each barrel has borne the mark of this examination, in legible letters and figures, which farmers and planters would do well to observe. None has been examined by him but that which bears his mark; but there have been considerable quantities brought to Baltimore, in second-hand flour barrels, and sold without inspection; and, judging from a quantity since brought from the same place, twenty-two barrels of which were weighed and inspected here, there was a deficiency of 1087 weight of plaster, below 320 lbs. for each barrel. Several samples drawn from this parcel were analyzed, and as much as 14 per cent. of dirt and other insoluble matter found in it.

JUSTICE.

RIVER MUD.—A new subscriber at Cartersville, Va. writes us, “that he is disposed to try the experiment of hauling out river mud, to improve his hill lands, and poorer parts of the bottom,” and asks us “how he can make the experiment most profitable to his farm.”

The best method which our correspondent could pursue to render his river mud available, would be to form it into compost with lime, in the proportion of 50 bushels of lime to 20 double horse-cart loads of the mud, the whole, after being formed into a heap and permitted to remain for 6 or 8 weeks, to be broken down and thoroughly mixed together. This being done, he can permit it to remain until he wants to use it. If he has no lime, but has marl, one hundred bushels of the latter may be used instead of the 50 bushels of the former as recommended above. Should marl be used the compost would be greatly improved by adding 3 loads of barn-yard or stable manure to every 20 loads of the river mud.—*Ed. Amer. Farmer.*

TO PROTECT VINES.—The bran of pepper, which may be obtained at any of the spice mills where pepper is ground, strewed on the squash and other similar vines, has proved successful in clearing off the bugs.

WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD OF SOWING?

HANOVER, York Co. Pa. }
May 11th, 1849. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

RESPECTED SIR:—I hope you will excuse me for encroaching upon your valuable time, and annoying you with a request for advice,—not knowing where else to seek for reliable information in the absence of standing Counsel in Agricultural matters; especially since the cultivation of grain and grasses is to me a new occupation, and my several attempts in some of the branches have met with the usual fate attending the experiments of the untaught,—failures.

I have now for three consecutive years been singularly unsuccessful in attempting to lay down *Timothy meadows* and *Clover fields*;—having sown the former at the time of putting in the fall grain in September and the latter on my growing winter grain in April, and at no time spared the seed. The Timothy seed sown the first and second years was obtained from seed stores, none being procurable in the neighborhood; the parcel first purchased would not even after I found it fail to germinate on the field, sprout or swell when placed on cotton floating on a glass of water, giving it a week's time in the warm sun. This carelessness (to call it by no harsher name) in vending *effete seeds*, I undisguisedly declare has much diminished my confidence generally in regard to the goodness of grains and seeds kept for sale in those establishments. The consequences after these several disappointments were to me exceedingly embarrassing, and attended with a serious loss of money, being compelled now for several years to purchase all my hay, and being entirely deprived of green crops to pasture as well as the improvement of the soil, by turning down clover hay.

Taught by that expensive monitor, experience, I was more cautious in purchasing my clover seed last April twelve months, and the timothy last September; having obtained both from careful and experienced farmers in this neighborhood, and part of parcels gathered for self use. The clover seed sown in April, 1848, came up plentifully, grew vigorously, but met the same fate like that sown by my neighbors, being killed by the hot sun and long continued drought of last June. The timothy I had sown last September with my rye, being told it succeeds better than with wheat; the land naturally good, was well manured with barn-yard manure, and had some lime, say 25 bushels to the acre strewn over it, was in good tilth, carefully sown, harrowed in and rolled. I would not have paid one dollar an acre to insure me a fine crop of timothy, so sanguine was I of success, and yet, unaccountably to me, there is not a stalk of timothy grass to be found growing among the rye, which truly is superb, many stalks measuring 5 feet 9 inches, nearly as tall as that at Waterloo, which hid the shako's of the French grenadiers. There might be some room to suspect the goodness of the seed sown, were it not met by the fact of another field of rye half a mile distant, which was sown on the same day, to wit, on the 11th of September, with some of the same parcel of seed, put in with the same quantity of lime, 4 bushels bone meal to the acre, and no manure; it now bears a fine promising under crop of Timothy. I have so far been unable to conjecture any probable cause of the failure on the first mentioned lot.

Being thus repeatedly disappointed in obtaining

the expected returns from the fields so prepared at the seasons timothy and clover are by common consent sown, I have concluded to make my next attempt at a different period of the year, inclined to believe what you so often endeavor to impress on the minds of your readers, that *time of seeding and planting* is of the essence of success and german to quality of seed, good heart of soil with skilful husbandry.

I intend to prepare the fields on which my wheat is now growing immediately after harvest for the timothy, meadows and to follow the plan pointed out by your whilom correspondent, *Cincinnatus*, in one of his able and eloquent essays contained in volume i. of the "American Farmer," page 75. "*As to time*—from the first of August to the last of September, I think is the best gauge, the earlier within that time the better, especially if you expect a return the year afterward. But if not sown then, from the first to the last of November is preferable to the interim, as, if seeded then, the young plants are just sufficiently obstinate to oppose an ineffectual barrier to the first *thaw*. Whereas, like some human entities we wot of, being very small, in consequence of late sowing, they escape with impunity, being *too little to be hurt*."

"An excellent plan for setting a meadow has been practiced by a respected friend: Sow in August with rye, mow the rye in April to soil with, or sell as green feed, the grass will then start up and produce a fair crop the first year."

Now sir, this plan I purpose pursuing in seeding down my timothy, with such suggestions and amendments as you will be pleased to make, but especially am I desirous of hearing your opinion in regard to sowing *orchard grass* and *clover* this summer or fall. Owing to sickness in the family, continued inclement and stormy weather, I failed in getting my orchard grass and clover sown on my wheat fields sufficiently early, and as the grain was so far advanced by the time I was of ability, I was deterred from so doing for fear of again losing my seed. You on a former occasion in the "American Farmer," volume iii., page 378, were so kind as to reply to a query of mine, as to *proper time* of sowing *orchard grass* seed, and stated that it "might be sown in the autumn at the time of sowing fall grain as well as in the spring." You also in the same volume, page 80, in reply to an inquiry from Talbot county, suggested the sowing of 1 peck of buckwheat as a protection from the sun and frost of the young plants: but as I am desirous of sowing orchard grass and clover together, what is your opinion about the expediency of sowing 1 bushel of orchard grass and 12 pounds of clover seed per acre on my rye field where the timothy has failed, in August next, and what other seed should be sown with it to shield the tender plants from the sun, drought and frost? I am induced to sow in August in preference to September (if no good reason can be shown to the contrary) believing, that the plants become more vigorous, take deeper root and bid fair to "oppose a more effectual barrier" to the frost, and escape being winter-killed. Still I am in favor of having some other grain sown with it as a defence, and would prefer buckwheat to rye if it is not too early for the former, fearing vegetation might not be checked early enough by the frost: my objection to rye is, that I will, if successful, have more on my timothy meadows than I can use for soiling, and it is exhausting to the ground; whereas, if the buckwheat is killed by the early frosts it

would cause no trouble, and yet nourish the young timothy by its decomposition.*

I am the more encouraged in the view so taken, having since found that I am not "solitary and alone" in my failures in sowing grass seeds on the fall grain: in looking over the "American Farmer" I met with an article in volume i. page 101, which recommends the course above indicated, and the only *exceptionable* part of the proceeding contained in said article, is, after directing plowing and cross-plowing the stubble 14 days previous, to *sow the grass seeds on the furrows*, harrowing and rolling. I am afraid they would be too deeply covered to come up early enough, and fall becoming sufficiently robust. Would not harrowing and reducing to a fine tilth be preferable before seeding, then harrow in with a light harrow and follow with the roller?

Since I am in the interrogating vein, I will close by putting several other questions, having to make an apology for imposing the infliction of this long letter on you.

In our region of York county, from the caprice and irregularity of the winter and spring season, the latter as well as the month of June even, continuing dry with chilling cold winds, the growth of grass has been diminishing, and becoming more and more scanty yearly: there is not sufficient hay now grown in this neighborhood, nor has been for the past 5 years, to support the cattle kept, although we boast of a limestone soil: we are dependant for our supplies on Adams county, and it is brought a distance of 10 and 12 miles. The cultivation of grasses having become so precarious, and rye and oats when sown for spring and summer soiling is so soon *disrelished* by horses and cows, I have been turning my mind to some other product. The *Tare* or *Vetch* and *Field Peas* are spoken of in terms of admiration by Germans settled in this neighborhood as producing heavy crops on even light soils in Europe, and requiring little time in the cultivation: so far I have found it to be impracticable to obtain seed. Whether the *yellow* or *cow pea* grown in the South for fodder would thrive and come to maturity in our latitude I would like to know. Information on this head and the prospect of obtaining seeds of the *Tare* or *Vetch* and of the *field pea*, and also of the *Cow* and *yellow pea* (whether the last two named are *identical* I do not know) either in Baltimore or New York would be a favor conferred on your humble servant, and many others.

In conclusion I would yet remark, that it would be very satisfactory if the prices of the different chemical fertilizers would now and then be given in the American Farmer, such as sulphate of ammonia; nitrate of potash; nitrate of soda; phosphate of soda:—ammonia, and all other articles now used for improving the soil, by the pound and larger quantity: this, with the prices of the different seeds, would enable small farmers on examining the condition of their domestic exchequer, to determine about the expediency of sending for them for trial: the expense being unknown, deters many.

HOCBERG.

*We would prefer buckwheat to rye, and approve of the preference given to it by our correspondent.—ED. AM. FAR.

†The *Cow* and *Yellow Pea* of the South is identical, and would mature in the latitude of York Co., Pa. The seeds of the *Tare* and the *Vetch* could be procured through the agency of our seeds stores. We think a moderate application of *ashes*, *bone-salt*, and *salt*, would greatly improve the capacity of the soil in York to overcome the difficulties alluded to—35 bushels of *ashes*, 10 of *bones* and 2 of *salt* per acre, we feel certain would restore to the soil what the grass probably wants.—ED. AM. FAR.

BRITISH HUSBANDRY.

BALTIMORE, May 5th, 1849.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—In my last I mentioned my intention of stating to you the system of laying down pasture or grazing lands in the north of England and south of Scotland, but before commencing, it may be necessary to state, that lands are never laid down for pasture, unless they have been at least three seasons under the plough after being broken up from pasture; but if the lands are of fine quality and in high condition, five seasons are used—and in the following method: If wheat is used for the crop when broken up, it is sown early in the fall, and this is called *rag fallow*—then for the next crop, if the land is rich and a heavy soil with a large quantity of couch grass, or what is called here *blue grass*, in bare fallow—that is, it is repeatedly ploughed and harrowed—and every fibre of this grass collected by women or children, laid into small piles in the field and burnt; if not, it is hauled away in carts and laid into a large pile, where it ferments and rots—it is then again sown in wheat as last season. After the wheat is cut and hauled off the field, it is ploughed in the fall, and remains in that state until early in the spring, when it is then cross ploughed and harrowed, and prepared either for horse or tick beans, or potatoes—but if dry enough, turnips are used instead of either; roots, particularly Swedish or yellow, in preference to white. Next season, which makes the fifth, either spring wheat or barley is sown, but very seldom oats; because grass seed never grow so well with the last as with either of the two others. If the land is not of that rich quality as stated above, it is ploughed in the spring, sown with oats and well harrowed—never having less than two doubles or four times as ploughed, and a single double or twice harrowed across—whenever the grain is up four or six inches, it is then rolled. In the following fall it is ploughed, and remains in this state all winter—if it is full of couch grass, it is ploughed early in the spring, and well harrowed and cleaned as above. If this land is intended to be sown in turnips, rape seed or peas, it is prepared for the former by being well ploughed and harrowed, until it is wrought into, what is in farming language, called a good tilth—having been well manured and limed, (if thought necessary,) then these seeds—but if peas are sown it is only manured and limed after they are taken off the land. Turnip seed is uniformly sown in rows by machines—these rows generally are from 27 inches to 30 inches from each other—when the plants have grown up, and got the rough leaf on they are thinned by women and children with hoes, leaving only one plant in every nine inches. Between these rows the land is wrought with cultivator, &c.; after the plants are sufficiently strong they are gone over again with the hoe, and completely singled—the ground is again cleaned, and this finishes the cultivation of the turnip crop, no matter of what kind. The general custom is to carry home all the Swedish, but only part of the others, thus two rows together are taken up and carted to the farm. Three rows are left in the field, they are also together, so that three rows are standing and two gone—those standing are always eaten with sheep; those taken home are given to cattle in the feeding stalls—or to the young cattle in the stable yards during winter. The Swedish are generally given to the horses and dairy cows during winter, and cut down in the spring with me-

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chines for the ewes and lambs. Rape seed plants are allowed to stand, given to the ewes and lambs, along with early calves—sheep are generally put to feed on the first sown turnips about the beginning of August; and as the land is cleared, it is ploughed and sown in wheat. This system goes on all the winter and spring until the season is over for sowing wheat, when barley is sown; but when this grain is sown, if the land is not of a fine loam, it is necessary to work it more than that on which the wheat was sown. By this system, it will be perceived there are only three seasons or crops between the grass crops, whereas there were five in the former. Grass seeds are mostly sown early in the spring, (very rarely in winter or fall,) and the lands are uniformly rolled after sowing of these seeds. There are various machines used for sowing grass seeds, as well as for sowing wheat, barley, oats, &c. The seeds that were sown for pasture or grazing lands in my time in that country were perennial rye grass, red, white and yellow clover seeds, with sometimes a little daisy seed. The quantity per acre was one bushel of rye grass seed, with ten pound weight of each of the other seeds, and if any of the kinds were not there, that quantity was added to the others—annual rye grass seed was never sown except for hay or soiling, and care was always taken to keep these two seeds distinct—nor was ever these pasture lands allowed to grow into hay, unless it was the year they were to be ploughed, and it was for the rye grass seed this was done. I may add, that at that time there was no herds or timothy grass seed sown in that country—because it will not remain in the land like the perennial rye grass, nor is it so good for the land as the latter, for it is so full of bulbous roots, it is as severe upon land as a crop of oats; nor does it spring up after being cut for hay as the other does. It is well known in that country that rye grass enriches the land, and covers it mostly from the heat of the sun, which makes it act as it does, and particularly when cut with the scythe for hay, as it springs up again almost instantaneously—it is not uncommon in that country to have fields, around houses, &c. in grass for fifty years, used altogether for grazing—these fields are full of all the aforementioned grasses, and when the fields appear to be getting full of moss amongst the grass, some fresh slacked lime is spread over it, when this moss is eradicated, and the grasses appear to grow with fresh vigor.

In small farms of one to three hundred acres, they are divided into four parts, or divisions: one quarter for turnips, potatoes, beans, &c., the next for grazing in the day, soiling at night, and for winter hay—the other half altogether for grain. By this method a complete rotation of crops is made; what was clover, &c. in the former green crop, is turnips, &c. this time; and what was wheat then, is barley and oats. I may also mention, that it very seldom happens that farmers on these farms ever think of raising stock sufficient to eat up all the turnips raised upon those farms, whose soil is adapted for the raising of them. They let out that crop to the farmers of large breeding farms, who cannot raise turnips for the winter supply of their stock. They, therefore, take the turnips from the farmers of small farms at so much per acre—divided as already stated—2 parts in the court yard and 3 with sheep in the field. The owner of the stock sends a man to look after and feed the stock, he being boarded and lodged by him of the turnips. When turnips are taken out of the field to feed cattle, they

are taken up singly, cleaned of roots, leaves, &c., in the field, and the bulbs when hauled home are placed in piles covered with straw to keep them dry and free from frost. This takes place in the fall, therefore, they are given to the cattle during the winter. The horses are always fed at least once a day during winter with ruta бага turnips, of which they soon become very fond. When sheep are placed in a field to feed upon turnips, they are kept very close together by nets placed upon stakes driven into the ground, or hurdles, &c. These fences are moved whenever the sheep have eaten up the turnips they were bonded upon. The land which has the turnips eaten off is sown with wheat, provided the weather, &c. will permit, or remains until spring for barley. It will be perceived, that land upon which turnips are raised and eaten with sheep, as stated above, must be improved very much by this system, because, it is first well cleaned of all extraneous weeds during its preparation for the seed, at the same time it is always manured just as the seed is to be sown, and all the manure made by the sheep is also left upon it. Again, the straw that is used for litter to the cattle which are fed in the court yard, &c. with turnips, is made by them into very fine and rich manure for the ensuing crop. Care is always taken that what is turnips this season, is clover or some other green crop in the next rotation, in the same manner as grain crops are changed. I have raised Swedish turnips to about twenty pounds weight—the roots, leaves, and everything being cleared away before they were weighed—and common white, from 15 to 18. Yet let it be kept in mind, the fields in which these turnips grow were of a fine quality of land—and rented at £4, 10s. or twenty dollars per acre per annum—and I received above £13 sterling per acre for the *white kind*. I may add that they have small machines for sowing the beans—and being fixed between the handles of the plough, are taken off at pleasure; they are used to sow the seed at the bottom of the furrow every third plowing, so that the beans grow in rows about two feet distance, and about ten stalks to a foot—they get one hand hoeing, and cleaned between rows, as described for the turnips. They are cut with the sickle, and bound into bundles with straw bands. They stand in the field until they are completely hard and dry—so as not to mould or spoil in the barn yard. Peas are sown broadcast, and cut with the sickle or scythe as the farmer takes a fancy.

What is called orchard grass in this country, is called goose grass there—it never was sown for hay there, but on the contrary, it is always pulled up when perceived growing amongst the rye grass. Pea-straw is never given to the horses for food on account of its readiness to give them the cholick; but bean straw is always, and considered better than common hay.

The blue grass *here*, is called *couch grass* there; it is never sown but where the sea leaves a large beach of sand—the roots of this grass are laid in rows and covered with the sand by boys, &c., with hoes—these roots soon sprout and take root, so that this loose sand is soon covered with grass, and becomes pasture land.

I almost forgot to mention that it is invariably the custom to mix turnip seed of different ages together before sowing, for this reason: a small black fly is often very destructive upon the plant when it first comes up and its leaves tender; but the seed being of different ages, the plants do not all come

up at once, therefore, the fly attacking the new plants leave some of the first to get the rough leaves, when they are beyond the ravages of the fly, and enough of plants are secured for a crop. When the Swedish or ruta бага young plants are attacked with grubs and snails, the only remedy against them is putting young turkeys, ducks, &c. into the field, which soon exterminate them.

I am, sir, yours most respectfully,

THOM. JOHNSON.

P. S.—I have sent you a Kelso paper. Kelso stands on the banks of the Tweed, in Roburghshire, and runs from Kelso to Berwick upon Tweed.

A WOOL MART.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—The wool growers' convention lately held at Washington, Pa., I hope will have a tendency to draw the attention of the wool growers of the adjoining States of Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia, to that all important staple, and induce them to fall upon some plan, by which the Northern and Eastern manufacturer may know where he can find the precise qualities of wool suited to his peculiar manufacture, the want of which has caused the manufacturer to work to great disadvantage, as he is under the present system compelled to buy his wool, in many instances, with fleeces ranging from the coarsest Leicester to fleeces almost equal to best Saxony, which would assort into some 12 or 14 distinct numbers or qualities, when he would probably not require for his own use more than one or two of any of those numbers; and the consequence is, that he is liable to a loss upon all the others, or he must manufacture from those fabrics, for which his machinery are not adapted, and suffer a further loss. Now the only plan by which this vexatious state of things can be obviated is by the establishment of a wool grading and assorting house, where they could have their wool put into its various numbers or qualities, where it can be presented to the purchaser, with an assurance, that he will get what he buys, and nothing else; this assorting would probably cost the grower from two to two and a half cents, for assorting and cleansing from burs, &c., and he will find that it will enhance the value of his article to much greater extent than the extra charge of the wool house. Having been a manufacturer for many years, I can fully appreciate some such system; having often been put to the inconvenience of working up small parcels, where larger ones would have been much more profitable; and all from the fact of having to buy all qualities mixed through each other. The plan as now pursued by the wool grower is to bundle all his fleeces "pell mell" into a sack, and send them off to his merchant in the city to sell for him, who though, perhaps, a good judge of cloths, knows nothing under heaven about the quality of wool in the fleeces, and probably in the usual course of his business never saw a fleece opened, and if he did, could not tell upon what part the finest wool was to be found; and therefore liable to be imposed upon by the designing, though he is not the sufferer so far as his commission is concerned. It requires a great deal of judgment and long experience to know how to handle wool—I know of no place so well suited for such an establishment as Baltimore, from her central situation as well as being in the great thoroughfare from the Western to the Eastern States, which for a long time to come, will consume all that can be produced of the fine qualities of wool. Immense

quantities pass from this city annually to the East, and the greater part in small parcels, as received from individual growers, and all from the want of a wool grading house in the city.

I am sorry to have intruded so far upon your valuable columns, but trust to be excused from the great interest which you feel in the tiller of the soil, and everything appertaining to his welfare.

MANUFACTURER.

The subject is one of much interest to the agriculturist—and we hope a spirit of enquiry will be aroused, as to the best means of securing a suitable market, and fair prices for the wool which can be produced in this and the neighboring States. The miserably poor prices which are obtained for their wool, operate against the farmer's paying that attention to its assorting and preparation, which renders it acceptable to the manufacturer—and if some plan like that suggested by our correspondent could be adopted, no doubt a heavy business would, in a very short time, be carried on in this article. Baltimore, from its central and geographical position, is peculiarly suited for the establishment of a wool depot; and the attention which is now being aroused to the value and importance of this branch of husbandry, and for which large tracts of land in Maryland and Virginia are peculiarly suited—together with the abatement of the nuisance of sheep-killing dogs, which, we trust, through the instrumentality of the State Agricultural Society, will be accomplished, we have reason to believe, will, in a few years, render this one of the most important staples of the Middle States.

With such facilities as are possessed by Virginia, for the supply of wool for its own consumption, we were forcibly struck with a statement made in the Richmond Whig, that a Woollen Manufacturing Company in that State, which requires annually, 700,000 pounds of wool, obtains 6-7ths of that amount in the Eastern cities!

"Is it not a shame (justly remarks the Editor,) that while we have so much land in Virginia so admirably adapted to raising sheep, a single Virginia Company should be compelled to resort to the Northern cities for raw material? Nay! not to the Northern cities alone, but to foreign countries! For within the last eighteen months, this single company has imported from the Barbary States, from Smyrna, and from South America not less than 80,000 pounds of wool! And that too, when the lands which should supply the fleeces are yielding absolutely nothing to the owner! The species of goods which have been manufactured in Virginia with much success are coarse woollens, blankets, &c. Now, we learn that Virginia grown wool is incomparably the best for manufactures of this sort. The fleece is larger, the wool heavier, and in every respect better adapted to coarse fabrics."

In connexion with this subject we extract the following letter from the Lynchburg Virginian, by which it will be seen that Northern men are turning their attention to the peculiarly favorable position of Virginia for the growing of wool, after a diligent examination of the country—for we learn

by the Virginian, that Mr. Dox satisfied himself of the fact, in a recent visit to that section, that no part of the U. S. is more admirably adapted to the raising of sheep, than the Piedmont counties of Va.

Extracts of a letter dated 23d ult., from J. N. Dox, Esq., of New York, to Sterling Claiborne, Esq., of the county of Nelson.

"I have been in hopes, each week since my return, of completing my arrangements for leaving home, and have put off writing, from time to time, that I might be able to say that I was ready for moving to Virginia. I have now progressed so far with my business that I am sure I shall be able to start in the course of two or three weeks, at which time, in order to save myself a journey back, I shall start a flock of sheep, with the expectation of hiring keeping, until I suit myself with a farm.

"I shall drive three or four hundred more than I may want myself, thinking I can sell to good advantage in your neighborhood. The sheep I shall drive are all prime ewes, and selected with care from the best flocks in Western New York.

"The attention of the emigrating portion of our population is now turned to Virginia, and I think all that is necessary to set them moving is for some one with whom they are acquainted to lead off.

"I shall be disappointed if the population of Amherst does not double, at least, in the next ten years. Have any of the lands that were in market last winter been since sold? What are the prospects of the Lynchburg and Tennessee Rail Road? Do Mr. Fletcher and other neighbors still think of purchasing sheep? I hope so, for I think that sheep husbandry will do more to restore the lands of Virginia, than any and all things else combined, and there is every prospect that it will be a grand business."

THE EASTERN SHORE.
ISLAND CREEK, Talbot Co., E. S. of Md., }
May 13th, 1849. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR: From certain indications of the PRESS, I am satisfied that, ere long, a happier period will commence in the life of the farmer and others who depend upon the fruits of the earth for the livelihood of themselves and their families. Not only will old Mother Earth, through the science and research of man, be made to produce greater stores for our sustenance and prosperity, but the glorious pursuit of agriculture will take its stand, and be generally acknowledged the most honorable of professions.

The efforts now being made by several citizens of this State, in procuring a distribution of the public lands, for the purpose of establishing "AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS," throughout the State, from the proceeds of the sales of such lands, deserve, and will eventually gain for them, the highest esteem from the people generally, and the farming community in particular.

Of late, so much engaged have I been in watching, with an eager interest, the dawn of this great and politic movement, that the original subject of my communication has been, for the present, abandoned; for your correspondent is convinced that the management of the scheme is now in worthy hands, and that it must and WILL SUCCEED, entirely independent of any humble contribution of his; and he is now content, so far as that matter is concerned at least, to be "a looker on in Venice;" but, knowing that you and your readers are ever willing to hear from

the farming interests of this beautiful and hospitable shore, I feel assured that you will lend me an attentive ear while I "gossip" a little about the "men and farms" of this lovely vicinity.

Come! my good friend, and, for a moment, in your "mind's eye," stand upon the head of the beautiful little bay, 'cove' or creek, from which I now scribble; look down and around upon its fertile shores, dressed out, as they are to-day, in all the beauties of the floral robe of lovely May; see around us the rank and rapidly growing wheat, which, even at this early date, is almost ready to burst out in the rich pulpy grains, that will so abundantly reward the farmer for his toil. But a few years ago, perhaps, the very acres we now stand upon, with their promises of plenty for the future, paid but an indifferent and incommensurate crop for the toil of those from whose brows poured "the sweat of labor." Behold! what miracles the resources that so long remained unnoticed and untouched, beneath the feet of our fathers, have worked. Who can reflect upon the blessed changes without lifting the heart in thankfulness, first to God, and then to pay a silent, but heartfelt, tribute to those men of science and philanthropy, who have, by their researches, shown to their fellow men the riches that may be turned up by the spade and the shovel.

But pardon this digression: and, as I see you casting an inquisitive glance at the rich farms down the creek, we'll step into this little craft close by, and take a nearer view of the "homesteads" of the hospitable farmers who live in this improving neighborhood. In the first place, we must not land, at least until we get to the end of our little voyage; for if we do, the proprietor of the soil wherever the landing may be made will certainly claim us for the rest of the day, as his guest; and it will be no easy job to beat a retreat from his genuine MARYLAND hospitality. On both sides of us, we behold the broad and profitable acres of some of our most enterprising farmers; and, while the growing crops bespeak for the land our admiration, the open marl banks, the disturbed shells, and well-dug marshes, show plainly to us from whence came the fertility of the soil. And let me tell you another fact, or rather call your attention to it. Wherever you see an exhibition of an extraordinary neatness in the arrangement of the farms now in our view, my word for it, upon stepping to the mansion, we shall see upon the table the "American Farmer" or some one of its kindred publications of the day. Now, sir, if you doubt the above "tale telling" fact, and are disposed to make a wager, I'll bet you a plate of those delicious "bivalves," called oysters, to be paid on my next visit to the city, that I prove the assertion at the very next house, where you will at once see and admire a neatness and farmer-like indications, even above its neighbors.

Here we are at the mouth of the creek, which, owing to the calmness on the river, and the inviting beauty of the place, must be our stopping place. Here, too, we will find what many sneeringly call a "Book farmer." See how promising is every field; see how neatly, too, the land has been prepared. Oh! does it not make you fall in love with the life of the farmer. We walk up the beautiful sloping lawn, which stretches itself along the broad water, commanding, from every part, a full and splendid view of the creek, river, and the surrounding farms. Fair woman, too, refined in taste, and educated, lives hereabout; for the showy garden on our left, with all its rare and lovely floral beauties, was never

the work of MAN. No! no! A fair daughter of "Eve of Eden" planned the arrangement of those beauties: the mind and hand of woman has marked this spot as her own; and so beautiful is it, that it is worthy of that sex, who were the last and the first at the tomb of Him who died upon Calvary.

Mr. —, the gentleman at whose house we are, is one of the members of your "State Agricultural Society," and, therefore, as a consequence, believes strongly in farming upon scientific principles; and, while he experiments considerably himself, he also, through your columns and those of other journals of like character, has the advantage of the experience of others—experiments and experience which have largely contributed to the great improvement of the splendid farm on which he now lives, so much to his satisfaction and pleasure. On this place, we see no ordinary stock, laboring with awkward, unwieldy implements; on the contrary, all the stock we see belong to the best blood of the country. The plough or the cart is carried along by them without an apparent effort. Here, too, we see the finest specimen of the hog; here he rolls in and fattens with the general plenty, and, as a reward for his few months' good treatment, fills up the meat house, in the winter. Every living thing hereabouts seems to be well provided for, except that *mischievous, thieving little rascal, the rat*; and for him, Mr. — seems to have a great antipathy; for, while his neighbors have given the "*little villain*" the "open corn house," Mr. — has taken some pains to make that important repository "*rat proof*"—a precaution I have wondered was not more generally taken. The spot of wheat upon this farm, designed to contend for the premium offered by the "AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY," must assure you that the acre that beats it in yield must well deserve the liberal prize. Some of the gentlemen who are raising wheat, with this same view, may, at the present time, have somewhat taller wheat than this; but, when we consider the bleak situation of Mr. —'s field, there can be no doubt but the harvest, if a little later, will be fully as plenty with Mr. — as with his enterprising competitors.

Dr. Higgins' analysis of "CHAPPELL'S FERTILIZER" has produced much excitement hereabouts. A number of our farmers who intended to use the "Salts," have now postponed the trial of them until further developments are made. There are some of the farmers, though, whose confidence in Mr. Chappell remains unshaken, and who will not abandon their good opinion of the salts until they see them fail upon the land.

I notice, in your "Farmer," extracts from young Skinner's translation of "AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY." The book certainly has merit, and, no doubt, would at once become a valuable "class book," in the agricultural schools, that we should have in every county of the State.

The late "croaking" about the destruction of the fruit turns out, as it usually does, untrue. We shall have a season of great plenty in fruit, at least on this shore.

E. F. R.

COWS WORKED AS OXEN.—A correspondent of the Southern Cultivator says: "I have worked cows in harness, not under the yoke, without detriment in any respect—on the contrary, their calves were superior to the rest of the stock,—due of course to the extra feed and attention the cows received. I should like to see this practice extended—for many of the poorer class have no other animal power to aid them in their farming operations."

For the American Farmer.

FERTILIZER, vs. COLLINGTON.

Your communication, page 25 of the American Farmer for July, has attracted my attention, and I desire to see how far your remarks correspond with experience.

You do not receive the "testimony" of the gentlemen who had certified to the good effect of Chappell's Fertilizer in the same "*faith*" with "*Putnam Planter*." You are like other doubting "Christians;" you put it off for a more "convenient season." Your skepticism will never lead you to an improvement of your soil, for you do not "keep pace with the spirit of the age," preferring the slow progress of some of your predecessors. I suppose you are waiting for a chemist to examine (by analysis) your soil, that you may discover what articles it requires for its renovation, so there can be no waste of money or material.

Let us have some pleasant talk together, and see if we cannot convince you that all prospect of you ever deriving any advantage from having your soil analysed, and thereby imparting to it the requisite salts to make it fertile, "is but the baseless fabric of a vision."

How do you proceed in other matters? Do you have your soil analysed to know whether *stable manure* or *guano* are necessary? Are you not aware that in giving your soil a "dose" of "salts" you are giving it the same medicine as in stable manure, less the water and inert organic matter? If you had the *ague* and *fever*, would you prefer bark to quinine, or the "poppy" to "morphine" in *cholera*? How did you ascertain that good stable manure would secure you good crops? Has it not been by experience alone?

Can you point us to any page, in any chemical work, stating when the farmer has derived any advantage by having his soil analysed? Give us the "*practical results*." Go out into your own corn field, (unless it is in a high state of fertility, which we doubt, from your apparent lack of faith in "fertilizers") can you tell us why some portions of your corn look so much better than other parts of the same field? Look! there are 8 or 10 stalks 6 or 7 feet high, beautiful and green; and a few steps from it, you see as many *yellow* and *diminutive*. Can you tell us what is the cause of this difference in appearance and growth? If you look over your field, you discover many places that look *sickly* and appear as though the crop on such spots will hardly be worth harvesting. What advantage would you derive from an analysis of the field? According to your theory, it would be a waste of money to put manure on the spots which are already fertile; and if you call a chemist to *analyse* all the spots, or portions of the field where the corn does not grow as you would desire, how long would it take him to make a "correct analysis" of your whole farm? and how many chemists would it take to do the same with all the land throughout the State? If your farm is of 100 acres, and is divided into 6 or 8 fields, are they all alike: do they not vary in soil and fertility? if so, what is the cause, and what the cure for such portions as require improvement. Will you call to your aid the analytical chemist; shall he examine carefully each portion of your barren spots to tell you what to put on it? Even if you have the patience, and can afford to wait until his investigations have closed, we doubt whether he could tell you which required phosphates, which alkalis, which sulphates: even if he could, how could he or

you know the exact line when to stop with the phosphates, when to stop with the sulphates, and so on. Could he mark the ground with a stick, so that there should be no waste? Could he tell you the exact quantity of each article to be used?

Peruvian guano is applied at the rate of 300 lbs. to the acre, with very successful results. Do you conceive it possible for any chemist to detect, by an analysis of the soil to which the above quantity of guano or "salts" had been applied, the active ingredients imparted to it by the "Homœopathic dose" it had received? Is not the idea preposterous in the extreme? Notice the diversity existing in the result of the analysis of "Chappell's Fertilizer," in the last number of the Farmer. Is it probable that any three chemists would agree in their analysis of a soil?

You appear to agree with the State Agricultural Chemist, (as communicated in his article, page 405, June No.) He there admits, and so do you, that the "inorganic constituents" are necessary in the soil. The Leibigian doctrine as set forth in that article, which tends to show the absolute necessity for the presence of such materials in the soil to make it productive, we are, believers in; but that it is not "philosophical or economical" to apply a manure "containing all the necessary constituents" because some of them may be present in the soil already, we do not assent to, by any means; for (Turner's Chemistry, 7th edition, p. 763 and 764) "If a soil is not fertile generally, it must be deficient in most of the substances (or inorganic constituents) above alluded to; and the only certain rule is, as far as possible, to restore to the soil, in shape of manure, exactly what it has lost in preceding crops."

We do not believe that any great advantage to the farmer can be accomplished by having his soil analysed, to ascertain what are present and which are absent; but we do believe that a field that has been cropped until it is "worn out" is deficient in the mineral constituents in a condition suitable for the nourishment of plants; although some of them may be detected by the agents used in analysis, they are not in such combinations as can be decomposed and appropriated by the plant for its wants, and consequent nourishment, until others are added for its immediate wants. The new "play of affinities" which then commence, may set them at liberty, and a larger supply thereby furnished. It is only in this way that we can account for the "fact" that so small a supply of a manure containing all the essential constituents has produced such decided effects and large results.

FAIR PLAY.

Corn Bread.—We are in the daily habit of eating corn bread made after the following recipe, by our good lady, Mrs. Norton, of Astoria. It is equal to anything we have ever tasted: To one quart of sour milk add two spoonfuls, well stirred in, of pulverized saleratus, two eggs well beaten, one table-spoonful of brown sugar, and a piece of butter large as an egg. Salt to suit the taste, and then stir in the meal, making the mixture about as stiff as for pound-cake. Now comes the great secret of its goodness. Bake quick—to the color of a rich light brown. Eat it moderately warm, with butter, cheese, honey or sugar-house molasses, as most agreeable to the palate.—*Am. Ag.*

No change in the price of Guano since our last.

DRAINING—APPLICATION OF GUANO, &c. To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR: I was much pleased and edified with the two essays on draining, in the May No. of the Farmer—a subject in which I am much interested, having had some difficulty in the drainage of some meadow land. I learned, by experience, in this attempt, that there are some locations which will admit of a deviation from the general rule laid down by the Hon. W. Newton, for the improvement of low interval land, though rarely occurring.

I think if Mr. Wilkinson is so practical on all other subjects relating to farming as he is on the subject of covered drains, he is the right kind of principal for an Agricultural Institute. The idea of the wells he speaks of, where the water received from covered drains is to be conveyed by pipes, together with the application of the same principle to ordinary covered drains, is, I think, an excellent one.

I should like to have his opinion, or that of any of the correspondents of your valuable paper, experienced on the subject, and I have no doubt it would be interesting to your readers generally, as to the comparative profit of a dairy and grain raising farm—the best plan of managing a dairy farm, &c.

Such a communication as that of a Kent Farmer is of the kind likely to benefit the farming community generally. Farmers are too much averse to giving the results of experiments which turn out adversely. In relation to applying guano in the hill, he will find, when he comes to crop the same land again, the advantage of sowing it broadcast. If he sowed his corn land in wheat, as is the custom on the Eastern Shore, he will find, if it acts as it does with us, that the 300 lbs. extra was not entirely thrown away. I wish he had mentioned the comparative effect of the Chilian and Peruvian guano. I have used the Patagonian and African, and have found them quite equal to the Peruvian, pound for pound, the analysis of chemists to the contrary, notwithstanding. I am not alone in this, for my experience is confirmed by several observing and experienced farmers.

I see that the public, finding that farmers would buy guano at any price, and were, as a class, easily tempted to put their hands in their pockets, to purchase any thing which would give fertility to their lands, have gone to manufacturing "the Improved Guano," and sell it for a less price, too, than the unimproved guano. Verily, this is an age of improvement. Then there are fertilizers, generators and renovators; all very easy to buy, if you have the money, and don't have to make it by hard work.

Now, I do not mean to say that these things are worthless; but I believe they afford a considerable profit to the makers of them. According to the analysis of the State Chemist, Chappell's Fertilizer contains 27 per cent of sand, from a specimen exhibited by Mr. Hopkins, of Talbot Co. Now, there is no occasion for the farmers of the Eastern Shore to import sand, and pay the freight on it; they have plenty of marl and marsh mud, and other materials, which they could compost with bone dust and plaster, and salt and ashes, and make as good a fertilizer as any one could wish, and cost less.

Fearing I have intruded too much upon your time and patience already, I refrain from taxing your forbearance any farther.

F. F. H.
Harford County, Md., May 11th, 1849.

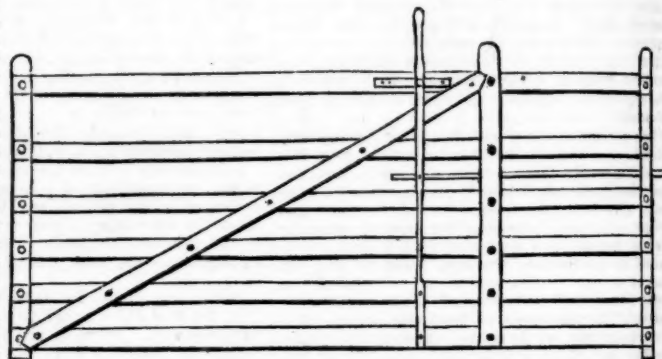
FARM GATES.

A valued friend to our journal, at Petersburg, Va., called our attention to the plan of a farm gate, which appeared in the American Agriculturist, of New York, furnished by Mr. T. S. Pleasants, of

Virginia. It is represented as one of the most perfect of many kinds used by Mr. P. and at the request of our correspondent, we publish the following description, with the accompanying cut:

Description.

This gate is 11 or $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. There are two pieces of scantling, one for the back, 3 by 4, and the other for the front, 3 by 3. The bars or slats, six in number, are 4 inches wide and 1 inch thick, after being dressed.—The braces and the uprights are of the same size and materials as the bars; 2 pieces of each, to be firmly secured by rivets, or



FARM GATE.

large wrought nails to clinch. The bars are let into the scantlings by mortice and tenon, there being a shoulder of half an inch for each tenon on the lower side of the bar, except for the one at bottom; in this it is placed at the top to prevent the bar from being split by any obstruction underneath.—The scantling and bars are secured to each other by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pins. The spaces between the bars, counting from the bottom, are $3\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$, $5\frac{1}{2}$, $7\frac{1}{2}$, and 9 inches. The spring, for which, as indeed for the whole gate, nothing can be better than yellow pine, is 2 inches square at the lower end—the elastic part is $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch—and the upper end $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1. It is fastened by the two lower bars by half inch pins with shoulders, draw-bored and held tight by nails. The latch is $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch, working through the space between the uprights, and a mortice in the front scantling; and the catch is fixed in such a manner that the latch shall play horizontally.

However well constructed the gate, the work is but half done unless it is well swung; and there is a rule for doing this, by following which no one can go amiss. The most suitable and convenient hinges are hooks and eyes, made of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bar iron. The part containing the eye or hole, is simply a screw bolt, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long for the top pair, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the bottom pair—with the addition also to the last, of a shoulder in the form of a screw tap, closely attached to the bolt at the distance of $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the centre of the eye. The object of this shoulder is to resist the weight of the gate and prevent it from settling down; and the greater length from the shoulder to the eye is to give the gate a tendency, when opened, to close by its own gravity. The hook of the upper pair of hinges is to pass through the post, and be fastened by an iron key; that for the lower pair needs only to be driven into the post a sufficient depth. The posts should be from 10 to 12 inches square, dressed true the whole length, and let into the ground fully 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet; and should be 6 inches higher than the frame of the

gate. The first post to be set is that to which the gate is to be attached, and it should stand exactly perpendicular. After being set (and the earth thoroughly rammed), place the gate against the post, so that the inner side of the post and the inner side of the gate-frame shall correspond. Bore the hole for the hook of the upper hinge, which will be about 5 inches from the inner side of the post; insert the hook and hang the gate upon it. The point of insertion for the lower hook will be $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches farther from the inner edge of the post than the upper one, to allow for the greater length of the bolt of the bottom pair of hinges; and the lower hook should not be driven so near to the post as the upper one by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. The other post is then to be set so that the gate will close evenly against it. When the gate is shut, the bars will be horizontal, but there will be a slight inclination of the gate when viewed in a line with the posts. As it is opened, it is gradually thrown out of plumb, in order to afford the gate a sufficient gravity to close of itself. If in time it should get somewhat out of swing, it may be put to rights again in a few moments by means of the screws.

A neat and simple cap for the posts is made out of three pieces of inch plank. The bottom piece may be an inch larger than the post, each way, with the edges rounded; the middle piece the size of the post, with square edges, and the top piece the size of the bottom, with the edges also rounded. The cap contributes very much to the durability of the post.

To fix a gate completely is not a light job; but it is well worth the trouble, for it will last and look well for 15 or 20 years. Indeed, I know of one which the owner assured me had been in constant use for 40 years.

The latch should always be kept well greased.—An auger hole in the post to hold a piece of tallow, will afford the means of greasing it whenever it is necessary.

Virginia, Dec. 12, 1844.

T. S. P.

SINGULAR DISEASE IN HOGS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir:—A portion of my hogs having lately become singularly affected, and as I can find no one in this section of the country who can satisfactorily account for their condition, I have adopted this method of seeking from you, or your numerous readers, information upon the subject. The first case occurred among a lot of pretty large hogs—the last among a lot of shotes—both parcels fat, perhaps too much so for the season. The first observable symptom of the disease, (for such I suppose it is,) was a limping of the left shoulder—then within a few hours a contraction of the leg of the same shoulder—so as to draw the foot backwards and under. The next day the left hind quarter gave way—that leg being brought smartly forward, and on the next day, the opposite side appeared to be affected in like manner—so that the hog, being unable either to walk or stand, came to the ground with its feet under it—occasionally however resting on its knees. Its back may have been *slightly*, but if at all, I think *very slightly* affected. The difficulty seems to have been in its inability to use *its legs—not its back*. For I observed that in its efforts to get up, it would not unfrequently raise its hind parts, and shift sides on again lying down. The hog eats and drinks freely, seems to be in considerable pain on being raised to its feet, and has been in this condition ten or twelve days.

The shote has not yet come to the ground, but is nearly past moving about, presenting in its movements very much the appearance of a foundered horse.

I am told that the eating of red oak acorns, sometimes injuriously affects hogs—but that they produce an affection of the loin, causing the hog to *drag* its hind parts. This is a different affair altogether—I have shown the hog, whose condition I have endeavored to describe, to several experienced farmers, and mentioned the case to others, but they have been unable to give me any satisfactory explanation.

I have but little experience in the raising of hogs, and although I live on a small lot, and have but little elbow room, yet I own several which are considered *pretty fine*. I am trying to see what I can make of them by killing time, and therefore feel rather more than ordinary anxiety in ascertaining either a preventive or cure, of the disease to which I have, I fear, rather tiresomely alluded.

If deemed of sufficient importance, be so good as to let me hear from you in your next number, provided you can give the information desired—if you cannot, however, I would be glad if you would give this an insertion in your next number, so that in the subsequent one, we may be instructed on the subject.

VIRGINIA.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Although our correspondent has described with great propriety the manner in which his hogs are affected, we are unable to say what is the disease under which they are laboring. It may be as he suggests, that his hogs are too fat for the season—if that be the case, and his hogs be kept in a pen, he may relieve them by turning them out to pasture, and gradually decreasing their quantity of food.—Or it may be, as we think it probable, that what is called the *issus* has become stopped up—these are

situated on the inside of the fore legs, just below the knees, and serve to carry off the humors of the body. In order that the evil may be removed, we think before he turns his hogs out, it would be best for our correspondent to scrub the issues with a corn cob and warm soap suds, and to give them, each, daily, a *tea-spoonful of flour of sulphur* and 10 *grains of powdered antimony*, in swill made of, say a pint of corn meal and cold water, and to continue this treatment three or four days in succession. He should provide them also, with *fresh charcoal, ashes, lime, and salt*, to resort to at their pleasure.—Scrubbing their bodies, too, with warm soap suds will be serviceable.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The County Society have announced the holding of the Fall Exhibition, which is to take place at Rockville, on the 13th and 14th September next.—The list of prizes is very respectable. In addition to the regular list, which is published in the Rockville Journal, the following premiums are offered, without respect to the residence of the competitors, viz:

For the best display of Agricul. Implements,	\$20
For the best Bull,	10
For the best Yoke of Oxen,	10
Second best ditto	6
Third best ditto	4

The President of the Society, *A. B. Davis, esq.*, appeals to the citizens of the county to aid the Society in its efforts to make the approaching exhibition what it ought to be, a credit to the county.

"It is but to bring out your teams, your stock, the productions of your farms, your dairies and your gardens; the fair handiwork of your wives and daughters, and the curious and useful implements of your shops; and the *thirteenth and fourteenth days of September* will be days long to be remembered with pride and satisfaction by every son and daughter of Montgomery."

He also announces that "that public spirited citizen, Col. CAPRON, of the Laurel Farm, purely from the patriotic motive of adding interest to the exhibition, has consented to be present, with his extensive herd of Devon and Durham Cattle. Messrs. WHITMAN and PAGE, of Baltimore, and COYLE, of Washington, will also be present, with their large assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Implements. The display of oxen, it is expected, will be grand and imposing. There is no reason why there should not be one hundred yoke upon the ground. The Plowing Match being open to farmers as well as manufacturers, is expected to be very interesting."

We hope and believe that this appeal of the worthy President will not be in vain; that the farmers of Montgomery will present an exhibition worthy of the public spiritedness for which their county is distinguished, and we trust that nothing will interfere to prevent our being present, to note the result for the pages of the "American Farmer."



BALTIMORE: AUGUST 1, 1849.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

\$1 per annum, in advance; 6 copies for \$5; 12 copies for \$10; 30 copies for \$30.

Advertisements inserted at \$1 per square of 12 lines, for each insertion. In case of the continuance of an advertisement for six months or longer, a liberal deduction will be made.

Address, SAMUEL SANDS, Publisher, At the State Agricultural Society Rooms, No. 128 Baltimore st. over the "American Office," 5th door from North-st.

PRIZE ESSAYS FOR VOLUME V.

The Publisher of the AMERICAN FARMER, encouraged by the great interest manifested by the offer last year of Prizes for Essays on important subjects connected with agriculture, is induced to repeat the offer for the present year, varying the subject matter, as follows:

No. 1, For the most approved Essay on the best plan of Farm Yard Buildings, and the management of the Farm Yard, with drawings on a scale suitable to the pages of the AMERICAN FARMER, a piece of Silver Plate, of the value of \$50.

No. 2, For the most approved Essay on the Culture of Tobacco, \$30.

No. 3, For the most approved Essay on the Management of the Dairy, \$20.

[For a more particular notice of the subject, see June No. of the Farmer.]

The Essays to be handed in by the 1st of September, and examined by Judges, to be appointed for the purpose, (whose names will be announced in the next No. of the Farmer,) and the publication commenced in the October number. The names of the writers to be sealed, and the essays to be forwarded to

SAMUEL SANDS,

Publisher of the American Farmer, Baltimore.

"THE FARMER FUND."

The State Agricultural Society, at their meeting in May, proposed to raise by voluntary contributions, (no one to contribute more than \$1,) the sum of \$100, to be expended in the procurement of

THREE PIECES OF SILVER PLATE,

to be presented to persons obtaining new subscribers to the American Farmer, for volume 5, viz:

1st, for the largest list, plate of the value of \$50

2d, for the next largest list, do \$30

3d, for the third do do \$20

IN ADDITION TO WHICH THE PUBLISHER OFFERS:

4th, for the 4th largest list, agricultural books, valued at \$12

5th, for the 5th do do \$6

6th, for the 6th do do \$5

7th, for the 7th do do \$4

8th, for the 8th do do \$3

The names and cash therefor to be received up to the 1st of October, when the successful competitors will be announced, and the names of the contributors to the fund will be published in the Farmer for that month, and the prizes presented at the Cattle Show. The President and Secretary of the State Society were appointed and authorized to receive contributions to the fund.

"THE FARMER FUND"—Increase of our Subscription List.

—Since our last, we have received an additional list of subscribers to the Farmer, from our friend, M. Goldsborough, Esq., of Talbot, and also the names of sundry contributors to the "Farmer Fund." Mr. G.'s list has now increased to nearly 100, of which the greatest number are new subscribers. In Talbot, our circulation has been very large heretofore; and this large addition, in so small a county, will, probably, place her ahead of any other county in the Union, as a supporter of agricultural journals.

From Wm. Dodge, Esq., of Washington Co., Md., we have received a list of 73, a large proportion of which are new subscribers, and the prospect of further additions is manifest.

From A. Maupin, Esq., of the University of Virginia, we have received another large list, and the prospects are good for a heavy increase.

From John S. Stevenson, Newtown, Worcester Co., also a large list; and likewise from Charleston, S. C.; Nottingham, Va.; Westmoreland, Va.; Dorchester, Md., and North Carolina, and a number of smaller lots, from 1 to 10. Our increase from Virginia, of new subscribers, is very flattering; but we have room for more.

CORRECTION IN THE LIST OF PREMIUMS FOR THE FAIR EXHIBITION.—The name of the county of the residence of the Hon. JAS. A. PEARCK was printed "Baltimore" instead of "Kent." The name of Thos. Noble, of Ohio, was omitted on the Committee on Drills, &c.; and on the Committee on Cattle under 2 years old, for Jas. Goldsborough, it should read James N. Goldsborough.

"A Citizen of Montgomery?" is received. Before consenting to open our pages to the discussion of any question, we must know the nature thereof. Our desire is to continue our rule, to present practical matters bearing on the agricultural improvement of our own and other States in which our journal circulates, and to avoid the discussion of questions calculated to engender strife and lead off the public attention from the great objects we have nearest at heart—the improvement of our lands, and the exaltation of the character of the tillers of the soil to that rank and standing to which they are entitled by their numbers, and the value and importance of their calling. Some believe this can be accomplished better by other means than those which we wish to employ. They may be right; but we are not prepared to coincide with them, and prefer our own track. As our correspondent, in his introductory, has not defined his position, he must excuse us for delaying its publication until better advised of his object.

"THE REGISTER WHEAT."—Our good friend, Samuel Register, has left at our rooms a sample of a very beautiful variety of white wheat, the stalks of which are over 6 feet high. It is represented, and from the appearance of the heads, justify, as a very prolific variety—it is sustained by so strong a stalk that it is never known to fall. It is a bearded wheat, and the grains very plump. Mr. R. procured the seed from a lot obtained originally from Pennsylvania, and has been cultivating it with great care, until he has secured a very pure article. He will have some 40 or 50 bushels for sale.

We have also received from Mr. Ege, of Carroll county, a number of samples of extraordinarily fine wheat.

WHEAT DRILL.—On another page will be found a drawing and description of a Drill, noticed in our last, the principal improvements of which were invented by Mr. R. F. MATHEWS, of the firm of R. Sinclair, Jr. & Co., of this city.—Mr. M. expects to exhibit those drills during the season, in the most important wheat districts of Maryland—and he will, we have no doubt, receive every aid from the farmers of the State. He has taken the initiatory steps to secure a patent.

PETRESCENT MANURES.—We have on file, and had placed it in the hands of the printer, for this No. of the "Farmer," a valuable paper from the pen of Edmund Ruffin, Esq., on the subject of petrescent manures. The number of communications on hand, some of which have been delayed some months, prevents our publishing it in this number. We shall give it, with sundry other able papers, omitted from the same cause, in our next issue.

We have received from the Corsica Farmer's Club, of Queen Ann's county, a copy of their constitution, and a report from the viewing committee, on the examination of the farm of Samuel C. Earle, Esq., which we have placed on file for insertion.

The Second Annual Exhibition OF THE MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Accompanying our last issue, we presented to our readers, the "List of Premiums and Rules and Regulations for the Second Cattle Show and Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition," to be held in this City the ensuing Fall, by the Maryland State Agricultural Society—and it is in a high degree gratifying to us, to announce, that the prospects for the Exhibition are of the most gratifying character. The late period of the season at which it was determined to hold the first Fair, the excited state of the public mind, pending a great and important National Election, and the idea which was presented to the minds of many, that it was merely an experiment, the success of which was doubtful, all seemed to operate against that success which was desirable on the occasion,—yet notwithstanding these drawbacks, the result was considered in the highest degree creditable to the Society, and honorable to those under whose direction the exhibition had been gotten up—and, in the language of the short but eloquent address of the officers, which accompanies the programme for the forthcoming exhibition, "*astonished by its display, the very people themselves who had contributed to make it.*" If under all the untoward circumstances which we have enumerated, the success of the first Exhibition was so gratifying, what may we not anticipate in regard to the second, when a year will have nearly been employed in the necessary arrangements for the competition which is then to take place—and we have reason to know that many farmers and others who took no active part in that of last fall, will be prepared at the next to enter the contest for the palm of superiority—and thousands who were deterred from being with us, in consequence of their desire to take part in the political contest which was about that time on the carpet, will be present to enjoy the rich rural scene that will be afforded on the forthcoming occasion.

It will be borne in mind, that the liberal provision of the Constitution of our State Society, throws open the door for competition to the citizens of all the States, or of the world,—all that is required of exhibitors, is, that they become members of the Society—consequently we may reasonably anticipate that the occasion will be availed of by many breeders of fine cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, &c. in distant States, to be present, not only with a view to the prizes offered for superiority, but for the sale of such animals as they may desire to dispose of. There are many farmers in want of well bred animals, who have determined to delay their purchases until the Fall Exhibition, knowing that they will then be enabled to make a more judicious choice, having a so much wider field from which to make a selection than is attainable under other circumstances.

The Ladies Department, we have reason to anticipate, will present a more attractive display than that of last year. Our fair friends will find that the list of premiums has been increased in their department—and we give warning to the wives and daughters of our members in the several counties, to bestir themselves for the occasion, otherwise our city dames will be apt to bear off the palm, as we learn that active preparations are now being made with that view.

Another part of the exhibition last fall, which did not come up to what was to have been expected, will, in October, be found of a peculiarly interesting character—we mean the *Horticultural*. In no part of our country can a more beautiful display in this line be presented than in this State—and the opportunity will be embraced by many of our gardeners and amateurs on the occasion, to make an exhibition worthy of the character of the State.

In conclusion, we would respectfully urge upon every member of the society, (and we hope this term will embrace every farmer and gardener in Maryland,) to prepare themselves to add something to the general stock which may be presented. In the language of the address to which we have already alluded,—speaking of the formation of the State Society—

"Let us, in generous emulation, each send something to its exhibition to stimulate rivalry in good works, and to shew that we are not so blighted with the curse of mediocrity that we cannot be excellent in something. Let us by our attendance at its meetings of business exhibit our interest in its management;—by our advice, assist its councils;—and by our teachings illustrate its transactions. So shall we reap a rich reward for ourselves and our posterity, and elevate still higher a calling, than which, none is more honorable."

USE OF NEW JERSEY GREEN SAND, OR MARL.
—At the *North American Phalanx*, in Monmouth county, New Jersey, no other manure is used than Green Sand or Marl in the cultivation of potatoes, and we learnt a few days since from an intelligent member of the association, the produce is good, the early potatoes yielding from 60 to 80 bushels to the acre, while they had instances in the fall crops of from three to four hundred and eighty bushels being raised on an acre. We mention these facts, in order that the legitimate value of marl may be known to those owning lands where it may abound. We have long entertained the belief that many of the calcareous formations contained much that was putrescent or nutritive, besides their mineral substances, and the effect of the New Jersey deposits would seem to confirm that belief.

INDIAN CORN.—To show the increasing demand for our Indian corn in Great Britain, we would state, that by the official report, as it appeared in the N. Y. Shipping List, the quantity of corn exported in June, was 1,287,369 bushels, which is greater by 550,486 bushels than in the month of June, 1847, when prices ranged from 83 to 117 cts. per bushel, and greater, we believe, than was ever shipped in any previous month.

OSAGE ORANGE.—A correspondent will find his queries answered in the letters of Messrs. Bateham and Dimmitt, on page 327 of vol. 4 of the Farmer.

FREDERICK COUNTY, MD.—A correspondent at Urbanna, under date of July 14, writes us that the wheat in his neighborhood is set down at half a crop—the Mediterranean is good, but the Zimmerman was injured by the fly, both late and early sown. "We sowed side by side, Mediterranean and Zimmerman, the first was good, the last badly cut—corn looks badly—the crop of hay light, as also the oat crop; pastures failing, and garden truck dying from the want of rain—the mercury at sunrise in a cool room 80°."

ANNE ARUNDEL AND CALVERT.—A letter dated 14th July, gives it as the general opinion of the farmers in the vicinity of these two counties, that the wheat has turned out first rate for that section of country.

There is a difference of opinion among the farmers as to the best kinds, some prefer the "Zimmerman," others the "Talavera," and others again the "Blue Stem," &c. &c.

A gentleman in Calvert county, a few days before harvest, found a stool of wheat of the Red Chaff variety, that had forty-seven stalks from one root, ten rows to each head—and in some of the heads 100 grains—he intends to try to propagate this wheat by sowing it to itself.

But few of the planters have succeeded in planting their usual quantity of Tobacco; and what is planted is suffering much for rain—corn looks tolerable, but also begins to need rain. Oats promise to be a pretty fair crop, some have commenced cutting.

The weather is very hot and dry—yesterday at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 o'clock, P. M., the thermometer was up to 103° in the shade in a cool place.

QUITE COOL.—A subscriber in a neighboring State, who has been taking the Farmer for a number of years, recently remitted us the amount due, with the following consolatory note:

"I enclose \$17, due from me for your paper up to May, 1850. I hope my neglect will result in no loss to you, for if I had paid up annually, the money would have been gone: now it is altogether and seen. I am not an agriculturist, yet I wish to continue one of your patrons and well-wisher."

A subscriber in Sussex county, Va., in remitting his own subscription, and the money for four new subscribers to the Farmer, adds:

"I can assure you I have never spent one dollar more satisfactorily and profitably than my subscription dollar. Even in the article of manure alone, I have realized considerable profit—and so much am I encouraged to continue said journal that I have from love to my neighbors induced some of them to join with me for your valuable paper—so much am I convinced from experience of its utility, yea, indispensable use that I have promised said subscribers (without expecting to pay) to pay their dollar if they shall be dissatisfied at the close of their term—herein you will find five dollars."

A NOBLE CONTEST.—A Talbot friend, to whom we remarked that the Old Dominion was likely to carry off the highest prize offered for new subscribers to the Farmer, writes us, to tell the Virginia competitor, that "Old Talbot will go the figure in high style, and though little, she is hard to pass."

WHEAT REAPERS.—The Winchester Virginian says that the editor had witnessed a trial of Humber Reaper, in that vicinity, and that it seemed to come fully up to the standard claimed for it, as being able to cut 16 acres per day. Another machine for the same purpose, built by Mr. M'Keever, of Winchester, was also set in motion—both did their work admirably, and left less wheat standing than the Humber cradler could have done.

The President of the Seneca Co. (N. Y.) Society in his report for the year 1848, says that Humber Reaper had been considerably used in that county and is highly approved—that with it, and the previous use of a cultivator made by Mr. Tracy, Wayne county, which is also highly spoken of, "several farmers have been able to raise and prepare their wheat for delivery, in perfect order, at cost varying from 26 to 30 cents per bushel." Recent improvements in the plow, by Mr. Burrell, Geneva, are commended, as also are the corn and cob crushers of Sinclair, and Pitts.

In Chatham county, North Carolina, Mr. Humber put in operation several of his reapers, which he deemed very great satisfaction.

FINE WHEAT—THE "HUSHA WHEAT."—We have received from John A. Parker, esq., of Tappanhook, Va., a sample of the wheat described in the annexed note, which is placed in the Society's Hall, and we invite the attention of the wishing to obtain seed to examine it for themselves and as it is on sale in this city, (we learn from Mr. Shepherd, at \$1.50 per bushel) we would advise trial of it, of at least a sufficient quantity to get the seed.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—I send you a few heads of "Husha" (or "Hushy") Wheat, which has recently been introduced in this county—and I think it is decidedly superior to any we have ever had. It is certainly more productive, is entirely free from grain cockle and cheat—has resisted rust, smut, and other diseases—ripens about ten days earlier than the other varieties. This is not a wheat county, but I have raised forty bushels per acre without the aid of anything but stable manure. The heads are large and well chambered for this country. I shall this day week send to Mr. T. Shepherd about 200 bushels, and I think some of your readers will do well to get in the seed.

Yours, very respectfully,
JOHN A. PARKER.

A VISIT TO LAUREL.—The President of the S., paid a visit to the thriving village of Laurel, the 4th of July, and was the guest of Col. Campbell during his sojourn there. He returned to Washington on the Saturday following.

OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.—The essays published by us, during the past year, have had, perhaps, as extensive a circulation as any papers which have ever appeared in this country on a similar subject; and who can estimate the effects which are to flow therefrom! The names of the writers of those essays will be as household words in the mouths of many yet unborn; for the good effects of their labors and researches will be experienced in the happiness, comfort and prosperity of thousands of the human family. All honor to them, and to all the philanthropists of our land, who are striving to ameliorate the condition of their fellow man.

We have many assurances, from the South and Southwest, of the high estimate in which our journal is held, and the good effects which are resulting from its teachings. Among them, we select the following, from Brandonville, MISSISSIPPI:

"It may appear strange to many that your admirable prize essays on the 'renovation of worn-out lands,' and the variety of information in your last volume, relative to the Osage Orange as a material for hedges, in lieu of fences, should have been of great service to some of your subscribers in *new States*; yet, such is unquestionably the fact. To say nothing of the rich prairie lands in Alabama and Mississippi, there are, in both these States, large bodies of land already destitute of fencing timber, and still larger bodies impoverished by an unwise system of cultivation. It is not uncommon to observe these facts, even in vicinities where the stumps of forest trees have not yet entirely disappeared from the yards of dwellings, or the streets and squares of towns. This state of things is to be ascribed less to a want of intelligence and information among the people than to the character of a population mostly immigrant, expending more labor in clearing the new land than would have been necessary to fertilize the old, impatient for great annual returns, ever restless, attached to the country by no early impressions, and always looking forward to spend the evening of life in some other locality. Almost the very object, therefore, was to exhaust and to abandon.

"There is now, however, coming forward a generation brought up on the soil, bound to it by the powerful ties of early life—content to remain where they happened to be born, or willing to improve where their fathers happened to die. To this generation I belong; and I am one to whom the *American Farmer* is always a welcome guest, and an instructive companion. Especially am I indebted to it for information relative to the Osage orange. Little need be added to what is contained on this subject in the volume just closed, to enable me to have a perfect understanding of the best method of making hedges of that shrub."

DR. MAGOFFIN'S APPLE FROM THE CRAB, &c.—In our June No., page 405, we copied from the *Alabama Planter* a paragraph stating that our old and highly esteemed friend, Dr. James Magoffin, of St. Stephens, of that State, had "produced from the seed of the crab apple one of the best fall and winter apples in the Union." We prefaced that paragraph with a request that he would furnish, for

publication in our journal, a paper "descriptive of the processes by which he was enabled, and the time it took him, to convert the *sour crab* into one of the best fall and winter apples in the Union." We made the request under the confident belief that he would comply, as we knew among the high purposes of his life, to do good and confer benefits upon his fellow men stood forth in bold relief.

It will be seen, by the communication from Dr. Magoffin, that he has responded to our call and promises, at no distant day, to give us the paper we then desired, on the means used by him to produce the *fine apple* in question—that he promises, also, next season, to send us some of the *fruit*, to allow us an opportunity of judging of its edible qualities and delightful aroma, as also some of the *grafts*. These we shall be happy to distribute among our friends, when received.

Mr. Magoffin has been long engaged in the culture of rice upon *uplands*; and we are glad to perceive, by his communication, that he has succeeded in growing a grain superior to that of the water-grown rice.

Our readers, we feel assured, will await with anxiety the publication of the promised paper from the able pen of Dr. Magoffin, detailing his method of converting the austere crab into a delicious table apple; and we, therefore, hope that *he will improve the first leisure moment to gratify them*,

CURING CLOVER HAY.—A correspondent in Tennessee, asks us to give "some plain directions for curing of clover hay"—"you will oblige by not quoting any one else, but to give it to me in your own plain lucid style."

The plan we have always pursued in curing clover hay, was this: we let it remain in the swarth four or five hours to wilt, after which we put it into cocks of about 50 lbs. each; on the second day, after the sun had exhaled the dew from the surface, we put five of these cocks into a single one, rounding off the tops into cone-like form, so as to turn off water should it rain: on the following day, if rain had not intervened, about mid-day we commenced carting in the hay, and stacked it, or put it away in the barn, as circumstances governed us. In putting it away we sprinkled a *peck* of salt to each ton of hay. Our clover hay, while being thus cured, was sometimes overtaken by rain and became wet; in such cases we spread it out to dry, handling it as gently as possible.

Our correspondent quotes a paragraph from the pen of Mr. Pierce, in the *Albany Cultivator*, relative to the use of hay caps, made from "Salmon Falls" sheetings, which the writer says, "have fully answered his expectations; preserving the hay perfectly, from long rains and heavy showers, and preserving the aromatic perfume which is always lost when much wet—these are made of yard wide sheeting; 2 yards square, the two breadths sewed to-

gether with a stout hem at the ends, the corners turned back about 2 inches, and sewed down strong, the end tied so as to make a loop of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; through each of these is run a stick 20 inches long, into the hay, standing it up, so as to prevent the loops slipping off—the cocks to be made higher than usual, and the cloth drawn tight."

With these caps for covering the cocks we have had no experience, and therefore, cannot speak from any personal knowledge upon the subject,—that such contrivances would effectually secure the clover while being cured from rain there can be no doubt; but we think the expense attending the preparation of the caps is too great to be carried out except upon a small scale. We have seen hay stacks covered by such caps, in which cases they answered an admirable purpose, in protecting the hay from injury from the weather, and more than justified the outlay incurred.

The painting of the caps, as suggested by our correspondent, would, we believe, be judicious.

NORTH CAROLINA.—There is evidently a good feeling being aroused in the old North State, in regard to the improvement of her agriculture, and if the success is not as rapid as is desirable, still her public spirited sons must not despond. Everything must have a beginning, and the ball once set in motion, it will roll onward, and the final result will be glorious. A letter from a subscriber in Chowan, who forwards his arrears, and for some years in advance, thus speaks of our journal, of the crops, of the formation of an agricultural club, &c.:

"I am much indebted to you for the continuance of the American Farmer to me while in arrears, for no old farmer who is contented to tread the beaten track simply because it is the one his fathers' trod, looks more anxiously for the appearance of the new moon, to tell the dryness or wetness of the ensuing month than I do for its appearance. Though many of its articles are more suited to your more northern readers, still while reading it I feel as if sitting at the feet of some Gamaliel, and receiving instruction to be used, though perhaps at some future time. We are far behind the age in agricultural improvement, though the Eastern part of our county, Chowan, possesses a body of practical farmers second to none in the State. The progress they have made consists only in the improvement upon the old plan consequent upon their own observation, and "to farm by a book" is as ridiculous to them, as the tailor who measured his customers for clothes with a quadrant. To get good crops, and still to improve our land is above our comprehension—to get good crops and wear our land out is our aim—but to get poor crops and destroy our land our practice. *The earth was made to be cultivated*, and we earn our living by the sweat of our brow most truly by taking in new land and wearing it out as speedily as possible.

"Some two or three of us though are trying to get up a farmer's club to meet monthly at some member's house, and examine his farm management, &c. If we can succeed in doing that, though a small business, we have hopes it may prove only a beginning.

"Our crops are very inferior this year. The wheat is very much injured indeed by late from the spring and the rust now. Some of them are worth harvesting, and scarcely any not injured at half. Our corn is at least one month behind in size from the cold wet weather."

For the American Farmer.

During a flying visit to our neighboring city Philadelphia, made a short time ago, I "potted" down some things in my memory, which, if put in print, may be interesting to some of your readers.

In passing through Delaware, I stopped a short time in the beautiful and fast growing city of Wilmington, where I was fortunate in forming the acquaintance of that veteran in the cause of agricultural improvement, although yet young in years Dr. Jas. W. Thomson. I was informed by him during a short, but exceedingly pleasant visit, that, from the fact of his desire to pay greater attention to his extensive practice, and also the time which he will necessarily have to devote to the superintendence of the medical education of the sons of several of his friends in the South, who have been confided to his care, he will be compelled, much to his regret, to withdraw himself, as a measure, from the active part he has always taken in agricultural matters, but that he shall certainly give whatever leisure he may have to the great interest, which he considers the paramount one, and which he believes should be cherished above all others.

The Dr. has, in the location of his mansion, interior arrangement, and the laying out of the surrounding grounds, making it truly "rus in urbe," shown that his attention to the improvement of the well-being of his farming and planting friends did not cause him to neglect the comfort and gratification of those at home. From the cellar to the garret it is replete with every convenience desirable in a private residence, and, what is so seldom seen even in the mansions of those who could well afford it, the first sight which greets the eye, on entering the hall door, is a most beautiful and tastefully arranged conservatory, containing numerous specimens of rare and choice plants. Why is it, Editor, that we so rarely find in the dwellings of the wealthy in this country a well arranged and well selected conservatory, or, in fact, one of any kind? I never could answer this question satisfactorily to myself. While we are following the example set us by Europeans in so many things, looking across the water for the pattern of our coats and dresses, and the fabrics of which they shall be made, and the hours at which we shall eat, drink and go to bed, and many other things, perhaps as quite so harmless, it might be well, at least it would look well, for those of us who can bear the expense to set apart, as we find is the case in all gentlemen's country houses in Europe, one room in our dwellings for the purpose of having it filled with choice and beautiful plants. It would be a convincing proof that our taste was not so vitiated as to allow us to see nothing pleasing to the eye, but what is wrought by the hands of man, or what might be used to minister to our gross gratifications.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, during the short sojourn I made in Wilmington, it was impossible for me to visit any of the farms in the vicinity, which, I am told, are amongst the most productive, and are maintained in the best order.

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any landed estates in this country, all of which owing, in a great degree, to the impetus given to agricultural improvement by the formation of the Agricultural Society, some twenty years ago, founded by Dr. Thomson and other kindred spirits.

By this means, so much good has been done within the borders of our little sister of Delaware, that may we not hope for in our good old State of Maryland from the labors of its Agricultural Society, directed by its able and zealous President, Charles B. Calvert.

While in Philadelphia, in company with that "chip of the old block," Frederick G. Skinner, Esq., I paid a visit to that energetic and whole-souled friend of the farmer, Aaron Clement, Esq.; and although there was a good deal of "smoke" about, it did not prevent us from seeing and admiring his choice collection of fowls, some beautiful specimens of South Down sheep and other fine stock, which he has in a large lot convenient to his dwelling. I would recommend to all those who take an interest in fine stock, that if they should be travelling Northward, and stop in Philadelphia, they will see friend Clement. They will not regret the visit.

During my stay in Philadelphia, as at Wilmington, the weather was such as to preclude my going into the surrounding country, to look at any of its fine farms; but still I saw enough, while in Pennsylvania and Delaware, to convince one that we in Maryland, notwithstanding we have done wonders in a few years, are still very far behind in the race of agricultural improvement, though I have no fears that we Maryland farmers will be distanced: on the contrary, with our State Agricultural Society to guide us, and the "American Farmer" to give us the spur, we may yet reach the stand in such good time as to cause the judges to hesitate in deciding whether we have lost or won.

There are some other passing remarks I might make, Mr. Editor; but aware, as I am, of the press of valuable matter upon your columns, from the pens of much abler correspondents than myself, I deem it best to defer them until another time.

May, 1849.

COLONUS.

Since the above was written, I have noticed, with great pleasure, the appointment of our friend, F. G. Skinner, to the bureau of Agricultural Statistics in the Patent Office. It will, no doubt, be hailed with the gratification by the agricultural community generally, from his well known ability to discharge the duties appertaining to his office, and the zealous interest he feels in all matters connected with their pursuits, which he has so truly inherited from his honored sire.

MR. MAGOFFIN ON THE PRODUCTIONS AND SOIL OF PART OF ALABAMA.

LAND OFFICE, St. Stephens, Ala. }
June 13, 1849. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

ESTEEMED SIR: The very kind notice respecting me, you will be assured, on meeting my eye, produced feelings not common; for, be assured, sir, the same expression of regard could come from no quarter more highly esteemed.

For the last two years, much indisposition and considerable accumulation of official duties, produced, as you will readily suppose, little disposition, and less opportunity, to indulge in what has heretofore been a source of gratification. A removal of the Land office to one of the most healthy localities

on the globe, I firmly believe, as well as one of the most pleasant, has, I am happy to say, removed the first; and I again find myself in the finest state of health. This will enable me to meet, I trust, successfully, the last, and that I shall again find some minutes not necessarily devoted to the investigation of musty records, old Spanish, British and French grants, locations of land claims, &c.

As regards a limited agricultural pursuit, I am happily situated, and not only acclimating valuable productions of the earth, and endeavoring, by example, to give impulse to the raising of some suited to our climate, by an improved mode of cultivating the earth, as the *improving* instead of *Vandal* mode is as steadily pursued as at any period of my life. The last year, I produced, from the *native* grape of our forests, 160 gallons of wine, of which there is but one opinion, between a Port and Claret: it is highly estimated by all. At no distant day you will find yourself in possession of a sample; also of our highland rice, which I have brought to singular perfection, so far as to leave the *water cultivated* rice out of sight—behind—for table use; also a potato, of the *sweet* variety, which, I am assured, you will pronounce the most exquisitely delicate and delicious root you have ever tasted. The last has been but lately introduced into the U. States. It is remarkable for production, size and preservative qualities. When produced in a particular soil, it is easy of cultivation, has a full portion of saccharine matter, and but little disposing to flatulence. All the late improvements in the cultivation of the soil I have fully adopted, and with perfect success. *Deep ploughing or trench ploughing is, in the cultivation of our lands, every thing.* Where the *manuring* system is gone into spiritedly, followed by deep ploughing, creating, in this way, a *deep soil*, successful production, in all seasons, is secured.

My cultivation of *fruits* has been unremitting, and my experiments equally so. I have certainly established the fact, that we have the finest *pear*, *plum* and *peach* section of the Union, not forgetting the grape. The *plum* that can be used in the *North* only as a culinary fruit, becomes *here* a perfect delicacy, when ripe. The *Wine* sour, and the *Jamson*, only used for the production of tarts, is *here* a *delicious tart fruit*; while the egg plums, gages, &c. grow larger, much more highly flavored and sweet, with more of the saccharine principle.

I have distinctly settled the superiority of *compost* manure, judiciously combined, over any manure in its simple state, in the production of vegetables, as regards flavor, taste, &c., and in nothing more than in the production of that prince of vegetables, the Irish potato, the beet, cabbage, carrot, salsify, and all the beans. Contrary to general *opinion*, and, indeed, *knowledge*, the sweet potato is susceptible of singular improvement by a *selection of soil*—the *growth* indicating, decidedly, the one best calculated to give it its desirable qualities; and much is effected by the kind of *manure*.

My location, gardens, truck patch, &c. is on a ridge, about one and a half miles South of the old town of St. Stephens, which lies on the river, (my corn land, &c. on it.) It is a beautiful *pine ridge*, with scattered oak, sometimes a solitary hickory and black jack—the undergrowth exhibits white sumach, some hickory grubs, white oak runners, &c., and 450 feet above tide water. The ridge lies handsomely, with the level ground and gentle swells—dark grey, sandy surface—sand extremely fine,

and mixed with a fine clay—subsoil reddish yellow clay, 12 to 14 inches below the surface. On cutting down the timber, white sumach comes up profusely. Slightly manured, the product is incredible of the potato, pea, rice, with every table vegetable. Without aid, it produces the *rice*, *pea* and *potato* well, even the first year. It is always loose, and throws up, on cultivation, a profusion of tall weeds. It is superior for crab grass. The large Dutch clover, during the *fall*, *winter* and *spring*, grows luxuriantly, but disappears in the *summer*. Timothy stands all the year—crab grass astonishingly productive: I have measured stalks 6 feet in height. We cut it after oats, twice—2 to 2½ tons of hay to the acre, and fine late calf pasture. All my grass is cut before 12, opened to the sun, put up in windrows during the night, opened next morning, and stacked after 12 o'clock the following day after being cut down. Our water is superior. This ridge is the *Southern boundary* of the calcareous rock of all kinds now found South of it to the Gulf. Marl, however, abounds.

As leisure offers, I will give you a paper on the subject you mention; and another season, send you a small box of grafts of my *Alabama apple*, as the best way of seeing the production of a variety of the *Crab*, originally. This apple, for an exquisite aroma, cannot be excelled, approaching, as it does, that peculiar flavor of the *Crab blossom*, &c.—flesh firm and fine, sufficiently juicy. By the bye, the one esteemed the finest is but one of several varieties produced by the same course of grafting, re-grafting, and grafting again, for thirty odd years.

Accept the best recollection of,

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
JAMES MAGOFFIN.

WHITE-WASHING TREES.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir:—Can you not publish a recipe for whitening ornamental trees. Nothing in my opinion (and I am not alone,) contributes so much to the beauty of a country seat as to have the trees whitened about eight feet up the trunks. I have tried common white-wash, but it soon washed off, and to repeat it as often as it would come off would be troublesome."

Our correspondent, who, with such just taste, admires the beauty of a country seat where the trunks of the ornamental trees are whitewashed, must not consider it "troublesome" to renew the white-wash as it may be washed off by the rain. Any wash, sufficiently adhesive to resist the action of the rain, would, we apprehend, prove injurious to the trees. A slight increase to the resisting power of the wash may be given, by using *milk*, instead of *water*, in making it, or by adding boiled glue, boiled rice or boiled wheat flour, in making the white-wash; we, however, do not advise such compound washes, either for ornamental or fruit trees, as the influence of the atmosphere should never be excluded from the bark of a growing tree. White-wash made simply from *lime*, *water*, and a little *salt*, is the best and most serviceable wash ever applied to an ornamental tree. The "trouble" of labor is sanctioned by its origin, and should be cherished as an element of pleasure by all who delight in illustrating their gratitude to their Creator by adorning the objects of his creation.

LEMON TREES.

TO PREVENT THEM CASTING THEIR YOUNG FRUIT.
PETERSBURG, Va., June 14, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

The July No. of the volume of the Farmer enclosed, has come under my observation for the time. "A Subscriber" therein, enquires "Will you prevent Lemon trees from casting their young fruit?" And as the question, so far as I have served remains unanswered, I take the liberty to offer a few remarks on the subject.

If lemon or orange trees have been properly treated during the winter, and not too suddenly exposed to the rays of a scorching sun, no difficulty need be apprehended if the following rule be pursued: Water plentifully and regularly, not only keep the surface moist, but to let the water creep to the bottom of the box or tub; when this is done no more should be added until the earth on top begins to get dry. If the evaporation should be great, it may be checked by placing some cow manure or litter around the tree. If the earth on the surface is hard, it should be forked up and be loose.

The only difference that I know of between seedling trees and those raised from cuttings, is that the former are always well rooted, while the latter I believe rarely throws out more than one or two roots from the stem, hence when not kept wet, they suffer sooner than seedlings.

From the foregoing remarks, it will appear evident that trees raised from cuttings ought not to be suffered to bear fruit when very young. T. S. B.

CUTTING BUSHES.—Are there any bushes growing along your fences? If there are, recollect that they are so many evidences of slovenly farming and should be removed. Therefore, seize every spare moment to have them cut down below the surface of the earth, and on the crown of every bush thus removed throw a handful of salt, and after three such operations will ensure their destruction.

MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—In Michigan, as in other States, there has been a rivalry among the towns for the honor of holding the next Fair. The Detroit Farmer, says: "It is true with great satisfaction that we announce the fact that the sum required to defray the expenses of the State Fair in September, has been raised by subscription in this city. It is a source of equal gratification to know, that other prominent places in the State have manifested equal liberality with a view of securing the holding of the Fair at their respective places. It shows the right spirit, and in return, each of those places will be favored with a gala day of the Society."

LIBERAL LEGISLATION FOR FARMERS.—At the last session of the N. Y. Legislature, a resolution was passed for the appointment of eight commissioners to prepare a plan and estimate the expense of an Agricultural College and Experimental Farm School. This is certainly a very important step in legislation, as it concerns by far the largest interest in the State, and one heretofore too much neglected by the Government. With a praiseworthy economy, too, which cannot be too much commended, and with a desire of obtaining the greatest possible benefit at the least expense, the resolution concludes in the following words: "But no compensation to be allowed the commissioners for their services."

HOW SHOULD A SUMMER-FALLOW ON SOD LAND BE MANAGED?

WHAT KIND IS THE BEST WHEAT TO SOW ON RICH LOW
ALLUVIAL SOIL.

We should feel gratified if some of our numerous correspondents would answer the questions contained in the subjoined communication:

"Can you give me or can you get some of your able correspondents to give me some light on two points in which I am a good deal interested. They are the following:

What is the best manner of managing a summer fallow as to time and manner of executing the work, including in its process the best method of putting the crop upon a field a good deal taken with sod, including among the rest, blue grass, herds' grass, English grass, &c.? And secondly, what is considered the best wheat to be sown upon low grounds, varying from rich alluvial soil to stiff clay. We had been much pleased with the Mediterranean wheat on such lands, but have been driven from this confidence in its suitability by the great destruction in this wheat sown early (which some consider necessary) by the recent frost; and furthermore on our richest low lands its luxuriant growth causes it often to fall long before its maturity. Be so kind as to comply with the above request, and oblige
A SUBSCRIBER."

Liberty Mills, Va., May 28.

ON THE USE OF LIME, &c.

WINGFIELD, Beaver Dam Depot, Va. }
May 24th, 1849. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR—I have to tender you my thanks for the prompt remittal of the Farmer. In looking into it have been highly delighted and entertained. It being in my estimate, a vehicle of matter more interesting to the cultivator of the soil, than any one I have hitherto met with. In our region, we are far behind the age in improving the soil, not because our people lack energy, but because their efforts are not well directed. *We all keep too many hands, too much team, and cultivate too much land; and also too entirely too much to the management of overseers, instead of superintending the operations on our farms ourselves.* The essays of *Stabler, Capron*, and others, are replete with interesting facts, though I must confess my disappointment in reading them, as well as the reports of the various clubs and county societies of your State. If these essayists, and reporters of clubs, had divided the various soils in the three ranges of tide-water, middle and limestone districts, and laid down certain rules by which on the application of marl, lime, plaster, &c., the lands could be regenerated, then there would be some guide to the ignorant. This dealing in generalities, leaves most of us still in the dark. Friend *Stabler* recommends lime. Now, my land is grey with a close and compact red clay underneath; to portions of it I have applied oyster-shell lime, at the rate of one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre, besides manuring it heavily with stable manure. The lime was applied several years since, and lumps of it are still to be seen on the surface. The limed land and several acres adjacent are now wheat. The limed acres are decidedly inferior to that adjoining it above and below, although the whole lot of fifteen acres was evenly covered with manure last spring and planted in tobacco. Mine is not a limestone soil, and while plaster is spread

on my manure before it is turned under, and also on clover with the most striking effect, the consequence of the application of lime is entirely imperceptible.

I notice a favorable report of Com. Ballard's crop of Etrurian wheat. Eleven bushels of seed on an extra-prepared lot having yielded 266 bushels.—From less than fourteen bushels of seed sown partly on clover fallow, and the remainder on tobacco land without any extra preparation, I reaped 390 bushels. Part of the land was seeded in *early red purple straw*, and the balance in *white purple straw*, both new varieties with us. The *white* weighed over 64 lbs. to the bushel and the *red* 63 lbs.; neither variety is bearded. I never sow bearded grain of any description, as when compared with other varieties it never gives a fair yield. Inclosed is my subscription for the coming year, I send it now, fearing that when the time arrives to make the remittance, a dollar note may not be easily procured.

Your friend and well wisher,

ROBT. H. NELSON.

TO GET A POOR FIELD INTO CLOVER.

A correspondent, in the District of Columbia, writes us as follows:

"I have a poor field, part of which, in sight both of the road and dwelling, is as nude as a rock, and had washed into almost innumerable gullies. This Spring, I ploughed and harrowed this until level, (the balance standing in sedge, briars and scattering clover) and put it down in buckwheat, with the view of turning it in this summer. This field I am desirous of getting in clover, the soil being naturally kind to it; and I wish to ask the quickest and cheapest way of effecting my object. Would guano and bone dust (please name the quantities) bring rye, or wheat and clover? or would you deem it advisable to put the field in corn, and go through the regular rotation? An answer to my inquiry will be most gratefully received, as the field spoken of is an eye-sore to visitors and passers by."

Remarks by the Editor of the American Farmer.

As the object of our correspondent appears to be to get his field into clover as soon as possible, we think the cheapest way to secure his object will be to sow on his crop of buckwheat, now growing, previous to ploughing it in, 200 lbs. of guano per acre—to roll before the plough, so as to effectually cover the buckwheat. The buckwheat should be ploughed in deeply; the ground should be then harrowed and rolled. At the proper time for seeding wheat, we would again harrow the ground, so as to destroy all weeds and grass which may have sprung up; then spread thereon 10 bushels of bone dust per acre; sow 2 bushels of wheat per acre, and harrow and cross-harrow the whole in together; lay off water furrows, and finish by rolling crosswise. Next spring, we would sow, on each acre, 12 lbs. of good clover seed, and plaster the next spring, so soon as the clover got well into leaf. During the first season, after the wheat is cut, we would not permit any animals, of any kind, to run on it. In the fall of the first season, if the land had not been limed before, we would spread, on each acre, 25 bushels of lime. By such treatment, we have no doubt his "poor old field" may be brought up to such a state of fertility as to yield him 20, if not more, bushels of wheat per acre, and 2 tons of good clover.

CORN FOR SHEEP—RECIPE FOR DYING.

RAPPAHANOCK COUNTY, VA. March 6, 1849.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

There is a prevailing impression hereabouts that Corn fed to Sheep will kill them. Have you any knowledge upon the subject? I have lost a fine South Down Buck, apparently without his being sick. I saw him eating in the morning, and in the afternoon he was found dead, and during the bad weather this winter, I have fed my flock upon corn in the ear, breaking the ear in two or three pieces.

I was induced to feed on Corn, notwithstanding the prejudices of my neighbors against it, in consequence of a conversation had with Mr. Jesse Egerton, the largest sheep owner in Western Va. He told me he considered it a valuable food for Sheep in winter.

I should like to know the experience of those gentlemen who fatten mutton for the Baltimore Market.

If you could give some practical receipts for dyeing Cotton and Wool the staple colors, you would confer an obligation upon the industrious wives of your numerous subscribers. The Maryland Penitentiary has the best Blue died upon Cotton that I have ever seen.

Will Oyster shells ground and sowed upon Sand act as a manure in any short time!

Yours Respectfully,
A SUBSCRIBER.

NOTES BY THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Corn for Sheep.—A very general opinion prevails that Corn is of too heating a nature to be fed to Sheep, except when they are being fattened for the shambles, and that then it should be first converted into meal. In the latter state, if judiciously fed, that is, from a half to a gill a day, we do not apprehend that any evil consequences could result from its use. We presume that if our correspondent's "South down Buck" died from eating the corn it arose more from the manner that it was fed out to him than from the grain itself. In feeding it out in the ear nothing like exactness as to quantity can be arrived at, and it may be that his sheep got too much. The winter feed of sheep should be diversified,—oats, brans, peas, and roots, if alternately fed to them, crushed into meal, would be more conducive to their health and promotive of wool than any other description of food: in feeding them, however, the flock owner should always see that they also have long provender, as straw, fodder or hay—that they receive it regularly—that they are watered regularly at least twice a day—are provided with salt, or salt and tar, and, where they may be kept up, that they have branches of pine provided for them.

Those of our subscribers who may have experience in feeding corn to, or fattening sheep, will do us a favor by furnishing us with their opinion upon the subject.

Dying Blue.—Dissolve 1 part of Indigo in 4 parts of concentrated Muriatic acid: to the solution, add 1 part of dry carbonate of potash, and then dilute it with 8 times its weight of water. The cloth or yarn must be boiled for an hour in a solution, containing 5 parts of alum and 3 of tartar for every 32 parts of cloth or yarn. It is then to be thrown into a water bath previously prepared, containing a greater or smaller proportion of diluted sulphate of Indigo, according to the shade which the material is intended to receive. In this bath it must be boiled till it has acquired the wished for color.

To Dye Yellow.—Wool may be dyed yellow by the

following process; let it be boiled for an hour in 1-6th its weight of alum, dissolved in water as a mordant. It is then to be plunged, without being rinsed, into a bath of warm water, containing much Quercitron bark as equals the weight of alum employed as a mordant. Turn the cloth through the boiling liquid, till it has acquired the intended color. Then stir in one-hundredth part the weight of cloth of powdered chalk, and continue the boiling 8 or 10 minutes longer.

For a bright Orange or Golden Yellow, the same tin must be used as the mordant. To make it a yellow a little alum must be used with the tin. A little be added, it will give the yellow a delicate shade.

To Die Black.—Boil the wool, cloth or yarn in a decoction of nut-galls afterwards for 2 hours more in a bath, composed of logwood sulphate of iron kept at a scalding or boiling heat. During the operation the material must be frequently taken out and exposed to the air. The proportions are 5 parts sulphate of iron, 30 parts logwood for every 100 parts of cloth, yarn, or wool. An acetate of copper added to the sulphate of iron proves the color.

Oyster Shells, if ground to an impalpable powder would act very beneficially the first year; they promptly will they act, owing to the animal matter adhering to them in a state of freshness. We think, however, it would be better to burn them.

THE USE OF MARL—HOW TO ANALYZE

In Skinner's "Elements of Agriculture"—a book that every farmer should buy—we find the following paragraphs:

"Before using marl as an ameliorator, we should know how to discover whether a soil contains carbonate of lime; and we should be able also to determine the quantity of this substance. To make an experiment, (and there is no sort of difficulty about it) a portion of the soil to be tried is taken at a certain depth, and not on the immediate surface: this last might, independent of its primitive constitution, contain calcareous substances, placed at some period more or less remote."

"The following is the very simple process by which the proportion of calcareous matter contained in marl is determined. Take a set of delicate scales, and, after drying, without hardening, hundred grains of the earth to be tried, they are put in a vessel, and a sufficiency of water to crumble to an earthy consistence is added. Upon this the drops of Nitric acid (aqua fortis) are thrown, the mixture is worked up with a wooden spatula, effervescence immediately takes place, and the carbonic acid escapes. This last is replaced by nitric acid, which then forms a nitrate of lime. This body has the property of remaining suspended in water, it is expelled by several successive washings; taking always great care that the other particles are precipitated to the bottom of the vessel. After this, the residuum is nothing more than sand and silica; the weight of which is ascertained by scales. If we then compare it with the exact quantity operated on, (that is, the hundred grains) the difference will be the exact quantity of carbonic acid of lime contained in the marl; for the diminution occasioned by the escape of the carbonic acid is besides the lime that was expelled with the acid."

BLACK HEADS IN WHEAT.

The Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—The wheat in this section of the country looks remarkably well, but I observe in some fields a great many "black heads." Will you give the goodness to give me your opinion in reference to their cause or indication? Some recognize them as mere "fungi"—others assert that they are the male wheat, and are evidence of a good crop, while others again contend that they indicate deterioration of the grain. The views of a scientific man will be acceptable to many.

P.
Dunkirk.

The "black heads" described by our correspondent may have been produced by the disease called sometimes "burned ear" or "burnt corn"—a disease which discolours the surface of the grain, but does not attack the interior of the seed, but which, as the grains being ground produces a discoloration, and consequently a depreciation of the value of the flour: or it may be the "smut," a kindred malady, which not only discolours the skin or bran of the grain, but changes the farina into a black powder. Wheat, says Sir John Sinclair, affected with this disease, when mixed with seed in a sound state, diminishes its value, imparts a dark color to the flour, and is said by some to possess noxious qualities. It is, according to the most reliable authorities produced by "fungi." Smut machines have been invented, and are in use in some of the mills of our country, which remove most of the smut from the wheat, and thereby render the flour ground from smutty wheat comparatively good. From the minuteness of this parasitical fungus, seed wheat affected with the smut transmits the disease to the succeeding crop and thus perpetuates it, unless means be taken to destroy it in the seed prior to sowing it. It is, however, fortunate, that by washing seed wheat, soaking it for a few hours in *ley* made from wood ashes or pot ash of a strength to float an egg—or a brine made of salt and water of the same strength, and afterwards drying it in slaked lime, the fungus can be effectually destroyed, and security from the disease ensured to the crop which may be grown from seed thus treated.

Various solutions for soaks have been recommended, as solution of potash, solution of the muriate of potash, solution of salt-petre, solution of soda, solution of common salt, solution of glauber salts, solution of ammonia, solution of soot, solution of lime, diluted solution of vitriolic acid, chamberley, solution of copperas, solution of blue vitriol and various others. We, however, prefer a solution of common salt and water, made, as we have before premised, sufficiently strong to float an egg or a potato. The plan we pursued in preparing our seed wheat was this—we first washed the wheat in clean water until the immersion of the wheat therein no longer darkened it, we then threw it into the brine previously prepared for its reception, where we permitted it to remain for 6 or 12 hours as occasion required—as we needed the seed wheat for sowing we drained off the solution, placed the wheat on the barn-floor, which we had previously had swept for its reception; then sifted over it

slaked lime, by degrees, turning over the seed wheat with a shovel and stopping with the sifting of the lime when all the grains of wheat appeared to us to be coated with the lime. Seed thus prepared we will guarantee will never produce smutty or burnt grains—seed thus prepared, if ploughed in, will germinate much quicker than when sowed without being soaked, and the plants will grow the quicker at the onset, a matter of considerable importance, as it enables them to send out their roots earlier and to get well set in the earth before the frost sets in and arrests their growth.

CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.

BALTIMORE, May 16, 1849.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—As the time for working Strawberry plants has almost passed, still I do not think it amiss in my attempting to convey to the husbandman through the medium of your valuable paper, a few remarks as regards the utility of laying straw under strawberry plants when their fruit commences to swell. The custom is probably very old, as the name of the plant bears testimony in favor of this conjecture, for the plant has no relation to straw in any other way, and no European language applies the name of straw, or in any shape to the name of the berry or to the plant that bears it. Its use in preserving a crop is very extensive; it shades the roots from the sun, prevents the waste of moisture by evaporation, and consequently in dry times, when watering is necessary, makes less quantity of water suffice than would be used if the sun could act immediately on the surface of the mould. Besides, it prevents the leaning fruit from resting on the ground, and gives the whole an air of neatness and cleanliness which should characterize a gentleman's garden. As almost every farmer has an abundance of straw—short straw being nearly as applicable for this purpose as long, the cost of this practice cannot be considered heavy to the farmer as regards expense, considering the value of the manure made by the straw, when taken from the beds, as the whole of it goes undiminished to the dung hill, as soon as the crop is over. And the expense of strawing is again many times repaid by the saving made in the labor of watering, and the process of this watering must be brought to account in the increase of other crops by the use of water saved from the strawberries. And suppose we should have a dry season? why as I have above mentioned, half the labour would be saved by placing straw under the plants, and the berries would be double the size of those not strawed. Even in wet years the straw does considerable service. Heavy rains never fail to dash up abundance of mould, and fix it upon the berries. This is entirely prevented, as well as the dirtiness of those berries that lean upon the earth, so that the whole crop is kept pure and clean—no earthy taste will be observed in eating the fruit that has been strawed, and the cream which is sometimes soiled when mixed with strawberries by the dirt that adheres to them, especially in the early part of the season, will retain to the last that unsullied red and white which gives almost as much satisfaction to the eye while we are eating it, as the taste of that most excellent mixture does to the palate.

Yours, truly,
R. M. WORT.

[The above has been on file for some months.—
Ed.]

EXPERIMENTS WITH SALTS, ASHES, &c.

HATTON PLACE, Baltimore Co., April 9, 1849.

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

In January last, as you will recollect, I made some enquiries, through your valuable sheet, as to the best mode of preparing ground, &c., for the reception of barley. Your instructions were to the point; for which, I am obliged; and I followed them as nearly as circumstances would permit.

As several have made inquiries respecting the efficacy of Chappell's Fertilizer, which I have used on this occasion, I deem it incumbent to give a brief sketch of the *modus operandi* by which I have been actuated, so that, when the result is known, they may be benefitted.

The ground, some 4 acres, in which my barley is sown, has a rising South-east front, and received 250 bushels of lime last year; in the fall, it was heavily plowed; and early this spring, cross-cut. I then put in pretty nearly 3 bushels to the acre, with one and a half barrels of Chappell's Fertilizer—making, in all, about 1,800 lbs.—thrown in broadcast, and then harrowed both ways. I also put one bushel of clover seed, i. e. one peck to the acre, and then rolled the whole lot.

In order to test the Fertilizer, I have resorted to the following plan, the result of which I will let you know: 1st: The Fertilizer I used as above. 2nd: And immediately adjoining, ashes. 3d: Also adjoining, a small space without either. 4th: Fertilizer and ashes side by side, as a top dressing to rye.

Your obedient servant,

AMERICANO.

We shall be happy to hear the results arising from the experiments of our correspondent. Such facts are always instructive, whether they prove favorable or unfavorable.—*Ed. Am. Farmer.*

THE JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

VIRGINIA, April 30, 1849.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—In looking over the April number of the American Farmer, I was very much gratified to see that you spoke in commendatory terms of this truly valuable root; I believe it has no superior among the class of root crops; all description of animals are remarkably fond of them; for the hog it is equal, if not superior, to the much esteemed sweet potato, and it is undoubtedly far preferable to any root crop that ever I have cultivated for wintering sheep on; cows partake of them with avidity, and they increase the quantity as well as the quality of their milk; cut up and fed with crushed corn to work oxen affords a very strong nutritious food.

I have cultivated some ten or twelve acres for stock for the last two years, and instead of abandoning the crop, I have planted some eighteen or twenty acres this spring, and regret that I could plant no more for want of plants. I have never measured any crop to test its yield per acre, yet, I am perfectly satisfied that no root will return as much nutritious and wholesome food per acre as the Jerusalem Artichoke. I notice that Dr. Phillips, of Mississippi, regards the artichoke as an exhaustor of the soil:—that gentleman must be mistaken, for I cannot believe that any plant that returns so great a quantity of litter to the land as the Jerusalem Artichoke is an exhaustor of the soil. Their system of broad leaves places it among the class of renovators, for I believe it is acknowledged by the most

intelligent farmers that all broad leaf plants receive a greater part of their nourishment from the atmosphere. I know not that any farmer entertains an opinion except Dr. Phillips that the Jerusalem artichoke is an exhaustor and not a renovator of soil. I should think it an excellent crop to cultivate on lands that were infested with sassafras, the artichoke grows very well the second year without cultivation, and would probably in a few years destroy the sassafras. Let us have your opinion on this subject, Mr. Editor. Will the artichoke destroy the sassafras? My lands are very much infested with sassafras, so much so that I find it impossible to save a crop of small grain.

A SUBSCRIBER.

We are not prepared to express a definite opinion whether the artichoke would or would not destroy the "Sassafras." It appears to us that if the suggested can be produced, it will arise from various causes, viz: the injury received by the roots and limbs by the abrasions of the plough in working them, and the shade produced by the dense foliage of the plants—whether these causes are calculated to destroy so stubborn a pest as the sassafras, we cannot undertake to determine. We think the means of destruction will be found in repeated cutting of them down in the season of growing, aided by the grubbing of the roots.—*Ed. Am. Far.*

EXPERIMENTS IN SOAKING SEED WHEAT

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR: It so happens that we entertain different sentiments relative to the efficacy of soaking seed grain, with a design of bettering the condition of the young plant. In the September No. 1848 I advanced such observations upon the subject as my experience and reflections induced me to believe comprised the truth. You took exception in some notes appended to that article. Believing still that the principles then advanced were correct, consistent alike with the doctrines of vegetable physiology and with common sense, I resolved to test them by experiment. I knew that steeped seed grain in saturated solutions of copperas, or common salt, &c., did not accelerate the growth of the young plant more than water would do alone, and that the worm would cut the plant, and the deposit its ovum there, as readily as if the seed had not been soaked, as I had tested these facts in actual experiment. But that a solution of common salt would not protect wheat from smut, I did not know by actual experiment: my opinion on this point was drawn from analogy and from the observations of other farmers. With a view of testing the matter, I instituted the following experiment:

October 31st, 1848, I prepared a piece of ground in the corner of my garden, twenty inches square, and laid it off in four inch squares. I then selected twenty-five mature grains of Mediterranean wheat, and divided them into five equal parcels. Five grains were planted dry as wheat is usually sown; the second parcel of five grains was wet and rolled in smut; the third was soaked sixteen hours in strong solution of common salt, and then rolled in smut; the fourth rolled in smut and soaked in nitrate the fifth soaked in water. As was expected, the soaked wheat came up first, and was the largest in the first month; after that time, no difference could be discovered. I paid no more attention to it than

near harvest, when a good deal of it was destroyed by the birds, cut worm, &c. On the twenty-fifth of June, it was harvested. No. 1 had two heads remaining, one of which had been partially killed by a bug in the straw. No. 2, two heads of good wheat. No. 3, one small head, and one spear of wheat. No. 4, three heads. No. 5, two heads and one spear of darnel. It is necessary to state, in order to account for the fact that only one spear grew in a place, that the ground was shaded by the tree and a neighboring tree. None of the wheat was either scab or smut; all is more or less rusted. I have simply stated the facts, and allow others to make their inferences. I shall repeat the experiment again, this fall, on a larger scale, in the open field, and hope others will do so likewise; as it is necessary, in order to settle a point in agriculture, that more than one experiment should be made, and made by more than one individual.*

Respectfully,

EASTERN SHOREMAN.

The darnel or cheat in the two instances above exactly where the wheat was planted, where the checkering lines crossed each other.

DISEASES OF STOCK, &c.

To Cure a Stifled Horse in Two Hours.—J. B. Childard, of Norwich, Connecticut, writes to the American Agriculturist, as follows:

Take one gallon of urine, and put therein a small handful of junk tobacco; boil down to one quart; then add two ounces of oil of spike, one ounce of oil of amber, two spoonfuls of spirits of turpentine, and two spoonfuls of honey. Put it into a jug, and cork it tight for use. *Process of application:* Rub the stifled bone hard with the mixture fifteen or twenty minutes; then dry it in thoroughly with a red hot iron shovel; then ride the horse forth and back one hundred yards. Repeat the above two or three times, and the cure will be effected.

Swiney in Horses.—John White, in the Southern Cultivator, gives the following plan of curing horses of the swiney:

Take about a quart of water, boil it and add salt so long as it will dissolve any: then take a piece of blanket and dip it in the water while hot, bathe the horse's shoulder well for nine mornings in succession, miss a few mornings; if the cure is not affected, bathe again for nine days. I have cured a great many horses in this way. *Another:* Apply common alum salt would be preferable) to the part affected, and rub up and down the shoulder with a stick, as hard as the horse can bear it.

Wounds, Sores, &c. in Horses.—The simplest and best efficient cure for wounds, sores, &c., in horses, is the following recipe, which has been used several years, with great success, by some of the best farmers of my acquaintance: Take two ounces of gum-turpentine; eight ounces of lard; two ounces of good leaf tobacco; two table-spoonfuls of spirits of turpentine; mix well, and stew over a moderate fire; when cool, it will be fit for use. I am no farmer, but have had many horses that were cursed with sore backs to deal with, and in no instance where I have tried the above have I failed to effect a cure.

Bone Spavin.—I think I have cured one hundred cases of the bone spavin, by taking a sharp knife and cutting across on the enlarged part. I then take a piece of iron made nearly in the shape of an

inch chisel, and heat it red hot, and burn in the cuts made with the knife until I think I have burned through the enlarged bone. I then apply spirits of turpentine or tar until the place heals, which takes a month or more. The remedy is a severe one, but better use it than have a lame horse.

Galls from Harness or Saddle.—"A Volunteer" tells the N. E. Farmer that the following remedy was found to be invaluable in the fatiguing marches in Mexico:

"White lead, finely pulverized, is the most effective application. Rubbed on dry, or made into a paste, with milk, and applied a few times; it will also prevent white hairs growing on galled places."

To Cure Bloating or Hoven in Cattle.—A table spoonful of spirits of hartshorn, for an ox or cow; or a tea spoonful for a sheep, will afford instantaneous relief. It should be diluted with water or milk. It acts by decomposing the gas generated in the stomach, and which is the cause of the disease.

Heaves in Horses.—John Davis, in the Boston Cultivator, gives the following recipe for the cure of this disease:

Take a tub, put three pails of water, add fresh lime the size of an egg, add molasses to give a more palatable taste, and place it in the stall, so that the horse can have free access to it. After he becomes accustomed to this drink, add half as much more lime, and renew, so as to keep it of the same strength. The horse may be worked as usual, only allow no other drink. After he drinks freely, bleed by taking two quarts from the breast; in two or three weeks, two quarts more. If the above is carried out, my word for it, your horse will have relief.

Another.—To three quarts of sweet milk add a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid, (oil of vitriol) and mix with the horses' feed. Give at first three times a week, and afterwards once or twice, as there may seem occasion for a few weeks longer.

Sore Teats in Cows.—P. Hallock gives the following directions for the management of cows that have sore teats:

Take a full pail of cold water, and wash and rub the sores well. Use the whole pail full of water before milking, which cools the teats, or reduces the fever, and the cow will stand perfectly still. After milking, use half as much more cold water, cleansing the bag and teats well, and in a few days the sores will be healed. That is not all the good you will receive. You will have clean milk, and that is the way to make clean butter.

Disorder in Cows.—Col. J. Brown, of Framingham, gives the editor of the Mass. Ploughman an answer to an inquiry concerning the cause of the itch or scab that seems to be contagious when it attacks a stock of cattle. He says, *hog's lard*, rubbed on to the part affected, will cure this complaint effectually. He has himself tried this on his own stock, and found it to be the very article to effect a ready cure.

Lice on Cattle.—M. Linley, in the Genesee Farmer, says that the most effectual remedy which he has found, on repeated trial, is to sprinkle sand copiously over every part of the bodies of his calves: to be repeated once a week. The experiment was suggested by the remark, that bulls, which dust themselves by pawing, are never lousy.

MAYNARD'S NEW WHEAT DRILL.



We promised in the last No. of the American Farmer, to present a drawing and description of the improved Wheat Drill, of Mr. R. F. Maynard, of the firm of R. Sinclair, Jr. & Co., with which we now comply. The most important improvement, (particularly for fields that are roughly prepared) is the mode of hanging the hoppers and tines, which are attached to separate levers, as shown by the figure, each working on a hinge on the swing principle, and so arranged that the tines rise or fall according to the grade of the land, also preventing the grain from being deposited too deep or too shallow, and allowing the driver (see figure) to raise either at pleasure, thus instantly relieving the tines from grass, &c., that may hang around them. By reference to the figure, one of the tines is seen thrown forward, showing the position of all when the horses back, or when turning at the headlands. An indented cylinder is placed in the bottom of each hopper, driven by chain bands propelled by single cogged pulleys placed on the main shaft, and on the cylinder axle; the main shaft as will be seen by reference to the cut, is propelled by a double cone of cogged pulleys placed on the large wheel axle, and on the end of the shaft alluded to—by changing the main band to a fast or slow motion, three-fourths to two bushels of wheat may be drilled per acre. *Directions*, we learn, will be sent with each machine, and will explain relative to the minutia of arrangement. The manufacturers propose making two sizes, with 6 and 7 tines; (the latter, we think, is the better.)

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HORTICULTURAL.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

Cabbages.—Let your *Savoy* and other plants be set out the first rain that occurs.

Spinach.—Prepare a bed and sow spinach seed. Sow the first week in this month, it will be fit for use early in September.

Radishes.—Prepare a bed and sow radish seed.

Asparagus.—New plantations of asparagus should be made the first good season in the early part of this month.

Turnips.—Sow a small patch of early Dutch turnips, for use before your field crop is fit for cooking.

Celery.—Plant out your celery plants for winter use.

Small Salading. Seeds of all kinds of small salading may now be sown, and repeated every five or six days throughout the month.

Peas.—Plant a bed of early frame or Charlton peas, any time within the first ten days of this month; and the probability is, they will afford a good crop.

Kidney Beans.—A bed of these should be planted.

Lettuce.—Sow seed for a fall crop, and set out your plants to head.

Endive.—Tie up your endives to blanch.

Herbs.—Cut, dry, and tie up, herbs of all kinds, for winter use.

Budding.—Peaches, nectarines, almonds, apples, pears, cherries, plums, apricots may now be budded.

Seedlings.—Weed these and keep them well watered, branches and leaves as well as roots.

Asparagus Beds.—Cut the stalks of the plants which may have gone to seed, and burn them; weed between the rows, and strew salt over the bed. Any beds that may have been recently set should be kept clean of weeds, and watered in times of drought.

Strawberry Seed may be sown on a border where the plants can be protected through the winter.

General Care.—Look through every apartment of your garden, and have every one kept free from weeds.

FLORICULTURE.

Prepared for the American Farmer by S. Feast, Florist.

Camellias should be potted immediately, if not already done. Inarching done in May, should now be cut off.

Roses should be budded and layered this month, if not done.

Mignonette should be sown early in the month; and if a succession is wanted, sow again about the 25th.

Orange and Lemon Trees may still be budded; attend to pruning and repotting, if they require it.

Carnations and Pinks should be layered, if not already done.

Callas, Oxalis, and the different kinds of cape bulbs, should be repotted towards the latter end of the month.

Dahlias should all be staked in season.

Pennies may now be increased, by cuttings or layers.

Chinese Primroses, raised last month from seed, should now be potted off into small pots.

Cactuses should be repotted this month.

Fuchsias should be repotted, if large specimens are wanted.

Greenhouse Plants, of all kinds, should be repotted now, and put in order for the winter.

Nemophila, Insignis, Schizanthuses, and other winter flowering annuals, should be sown now.

REVIEW OF THE TOBACCO & GRAIN MARKETS.

Reported for the American Farmer, by J. W. & E. Reynolds.

July 31, 1849.—In making out our report for the present month, we regret being unable to say anything calculated to cheer the hearts of the tobacco planters; for, although it is very evident, by the concurrent testimony of all who are engaged in raising tobacco, that the crop raised last year is very far short of an average one, and the prospects of the now growing crops indicate a still smaller quantity will be raised this year than last, these facts appear not to have had as yet any effect in enhancing the value of the article. The rates for all qualities of Maryland tobacco have been uniformly the same throughout this month as they were during the last; though we think there has been more activity in the market lately than for some weeks prior to the 15th inst. The causes of this continued depression of the prices are various, in our opinion; and we deem it unnecessary to mention them, as it would be, probably, uninteresting to the readers of your very valuable periodical for us to do so.

We are gratified at being able to state that the Grain market is more cheering to the farmer than the tobacco market is to the planter; for, while the latter is in the state above referred to, the price of grain is such as to justify the labors of the sower; and the price of corn has lately advanced considerably, while wheat sells readily at fair rates.

We quote sales of common dark crop and second tobacco, \$2½ to \$3; middling qualities, \$3 to \$4; good, \$4½ to \$6½; fine red, \$7 to \$9. Red wheat, \$1 to \$1.10; white wheat, \$1.08 to \$1.15. White corn, 56 to 58; yellow, 59 to 60. Rye, 58; and Oats, 27 to 30.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

From the 21st of June to the 21st of July.

Kept at Schellman Hall, near Sykesville, Carroll County, Md.

Taken at 6 o'clock, a. m., 2 o'clock, noon, and at 6 o'clock.

	Wind.	Temperature		Remarks.
21st	W SW	W	73 91 86	Clear
22nd	W S	W	74 86 84	Clear
23rd	W W	W	69 89 80	Clear
24th	E W	W	74 83 76	Clear
25th	NE W	W	71 86 81	Clear
26th	W W	W	68 84 79	Clear
27th	E E	SE	65 84 88	Clear
28th	SW SW	SW	74 89 75	Cloudy
29th	S W	W	72 81 79	Clear
30th	W W	W	72 85 81	Clear
1st	W	E	74 83 77	Fog, Clear
2nd	N N	N	60 74 69	Clear
3rd	NE NE	N	53 74 68	Clear
4th	E E	E	63 73 70	Clear
5th	E E	SW	58 70 67	Clear
6th	W SW	W	62 77 77	Clear
7th	W W	W	68 76 75	Cloudy Rain ½ in.
8th	W W	W	71 79 74	Cloudy, Shower, Clear
9th	E E	W	67 79 75	Fog, Cloudy, Clear
10th	S E	W	70 74 77	Clear, Cloudy Clear
11th	S S	S	71 85 81	Clear
12th	S S	S	71 89 83	Fog, Clear
13th	S W	W	80 90 85	Clear, strong breeze
14th	W W	W	81 86 77	Clear, Gust 1-10 in., Clear
15th	SW NW	W	60 73 78	Clear
16th	W W	W	59 76 73	Clear
17th	SW SW	SW	66 79 75	Clear
18th	SW SW	SW	69 81 78	Fog, Clear
19th	S S	S	66 86 83	Fog, Clear
20th	SE SE	S	73 81 78	Cloudy, Clear

PLUGHS!! PLUGHS!!



The subscriber is manufacturing Ploughs of various patterns and of different sizes; also Wheat Fans, Cylindrical Straw Cutters, Corn and Tobacco Cultivators, CORN SHELLERS, &c. Also,

THRESHING MACHINES and HORSE POWERS—these latter are used by the following gentlemen, to whom reference is made, as to their superior value, viz: Messrs. T. Beard, The Beard, Dr. Watkins, J. T. Hodges, T. Welsh, W. Muckall, J. Ingelhart, A. Sellman, R. Sellman, W. Hopkins, J. Kent, Geo. Wells, Geo. Gale, Dr. Fenwick, A. Franklin, J. C. Weems, of Anne Arundel county; G. W. Weems, J. T. Barber, R. B. Chew, W. Boswell, Y. Howes, of Calvert co., Md. Agent of Evans Davis, Baltimore co. for sale of the wooden Plow. Pennsylvania Grain Cradles. CHAS. H. DRURY, Gillingham Alley, entrance from Howard-st., near Pratt, mal and store, Hollingsworth-st. corner Pratt.

Agricultural Machinery.

THE subscribers are now having put up, as fast as the extent of their shops will admit, *Threshing Machines*, which *Thresh, Clean and Screen the Wheat* complete at one operation; such as we received the First Premium for, at the great Exhibition at Baltimore, last November. They will get out from 20 to 35 bushels per hour. Also, **TREAD POWERS**, for one, two or three horses, of the most approved kind, and **LEVER POWERS**, of different sizes, all of improved construction. We will state some of the improvements, to show that they consist not in declaration, but in fact. First, we have got up patterns specially to embrace the improvement so justly and strongly recommended by a Committee at the Agricultural Exhibition at Baltimore, last November, which improvement consists in giving a motion by the Power, so that the pulley on the threshing cylinder can be greatly increased, so as to secure regularity in the motion of the cylinder by not allowing the strap to slip, as it certainly will not do over a large pulley. Ours will require the pulley to be double the size of those now in use. Another improvement in our Power is, that the pitch of the coys, in all of the wheels, are much closer than common, having also increased width, to secure strength. Mechanists of experience will universally agree that this fine pitch gearing will give greater ease of draft, as well as smoother motion. (When ordered, we make Threshers with or without shakers. **PRICES AT SHOP:** Tread Power, 1 horse, \$85; 2 horse, \$100; 3 horse, \$110. Lever Power, large size, \$75; small size, \$65. Our Premium Thresher and Cleaner, \$100. Common Threshers, according to size, from \$35 to \$50.

We will deliver them in Baltimore, or an equal distance, for a small additional charge.

Our work of every description we guarantee to work well, and ask only a trial to secure the approbation and patronage of the public.

ATLEE & BLYTHE,

New Windsor, Carroll county, Md., May 4, 1849.

P. S.—The subscriber, one of the firm, being a practical examiner, assures the public that these machines are, upon trial, far and away what their advertisement represents.

Jan 1

JAS. C. ATLEE.

CHEMICAL MANURE,

Manufactured by the "George Bommer New York Manure Company."

THIS Manure is made chiefly of Fecal matter from the sinks, in which is mixed a small portion of substances that are of themselves powerful agents of vegetation, and possess the virtue to fix and retain the ammoniacal gas of the matter.

The great desideratum of the agriculturist has always been, to find out some process by which excrements might be solidified quickly, and all their fertilizing properties so strongly retained, that the manure may dissolve slowly in proportion to the requirements of the plants, and therefore, produce its effects for a time equal to that of farm manure.—This process was at length discovered by the French Chemists, and is now practically carried out with complete success in more than sixty of the large cities in France, where such factories are in full operation.

The "G. B. N. Y. M. Co." has established a Factory, on an extensive scale, near the city of New York, in which they manufacture this kind of manure, and as the fecal matter can be obtained in this country at less expense than in France, the manure

will not only be made stronger, but will be sold at a price less than in the French cities, this price being so established as to afford only the reasonable remuneration to which we are honestly entitled, more so, as its manufacture is not of the most agreeable kind, and withal troublesome and laborious.

The manufacturing department is under the special charge of George Bommer, esq., who has a great scientific and practical knowledge of manure matters generally, and the company has established a standard for the strength of its manure in which it is intended not to deviate, so that its customers may at all times be furnished with an article really worth what they pay for it. Our manure is an inodorous grain, and as the substances in which it is made contain of themselves all the elements necessary to the fertilization of the soil, the growth of plants, it is extremely well adapted to such purposes.

To manure an acre highly, it requires 12 to 14 barrels or 36 to 45 bushels spread broadcast. Applied in hills, one half of this quantity will suffice. Its application is simple and easy, and printed instructions for its use will accompany every package sent to order.

We desire it to be remembered, that our manure has no similarity to another, known under the name of "Poudrette," although the principal component of ours (the Fecal matter) is the same as that which is used in poudrette in a much less proportion, auxiliary substances, as well as our manufacturing process, are altogether of a different nature and kind.

It belongs not to us to eulogize further the quality of our manure, what we desire at present is, to urge upon the members of the agricultural community to try it! and we have reasons to assure them, that they will find it the most profitable manure they ever used.

Price, taken at the Factory:

37½ cents per bushel, without package; 50 cents per bushel, packed in barrels; or, \$1.50 per barrel, package included.

Orders addressed to the above company at its office, 72 Greenwich-st., New York, will be promptly attended to.

By order of the Board of Directors,
GEORGE BOMMER, Director.

New York, January, 1849.

The Factory will be in full operation early in the spring, and manure can be had in April and at any time afterwards.

Feb. 1-4

BONE DUST.

THE subscribers manufacture BONE DUST as fine as any made in the country, by grinding and without any chemical operation—their bones are fresh from city slaughtered cattle, and all valuable properties are contained in them. They sell at the lowest market price. Orders will be received at our factory, Columbia-street, intersection of the Washington road, or at the store of Geo. Collins & Denson, 83 Light-street Wharf.

GEO. C. COLLINS & BULLOCK.

N. B.—Always on hand, Glue, Curled Hair and Glue Manure.

Jan 1-4

Guano! Guano! Guano!

PERUVIAN GUANO, Amaraes cargo, in cotton bags Patagonian Guano, African do. Chilean do. for sale lots to suit purchasers, by T. W. & L. LEVERING, No. 14 Pratt-st. Wharf.

Also Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Orchard Grass, Grass, &c.

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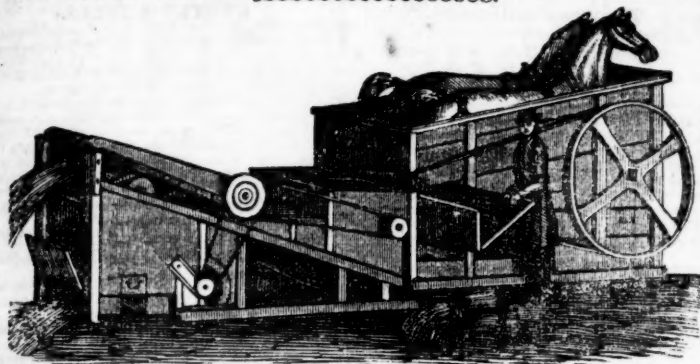


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50 THRESHING MACHINES FOR SALE THIS SEASON BY E. WHITMAN, JR.



THE above cut represents Whitman's Premium Wrought Iron Rail-way Horse Power & Thresher.

We have also several kinds of Sweep Powers, among which we know in some parts of the country, as the Fitz, Kirk, and Hanover Power.

The cylinder of our Thresher will last 100 years in constant use, and the horse-power cannot be broken, with proper care. In evidence that our machines are fast gaining popularity, manufacturers who have been most opposed to them, finding

they will supercede all others, are now even trying to imitate them, but those who have listened to their bitter opposition for the last five years, having been once deceived by these manufacturers, will hardly entertain any confidence in the recommendation of the spurious article now offered by them. And for the benefit of farmers we will say that our machines can only be had by applying direct to

E. WHITMAN, Jr.,
Agricultural Warehouse, Cor. Light & Pratt-sts.
Jun 1 Baltimore, Md.

Guano! Guano!!

FOR SALE in quantities to suit, at reduced rates, Peruvian Guano of the government importation in White Cotton Bags. Patagonian Guano of the "Curtis" cargo, deemed the best ever imported, being free from impurities and very strong and dry—in superior white bags just imported. Patagonian Guano of the "Hibernia's" cargo, in barrels and bag African Guano, in bags.

TIMOTHY SEED. SEED BUCKWHEAT.
W. WHITELOCK,
Cor. Gay and High-sts.
Jy 1-3t.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—LABOR SAVING MACHINERY.—GEORGE PAGE, Machinist & Manufacturer, Baltimore. West of Schroder st. Baltimore, is now prepared to supply Agriculturists and all others in want of Agricultural and Labor-saving MACHINERY, with any thing in his line. He can furnish Portable Saw Mills to go by steam, horse or water power; Lumber Wheels; Horse Powers of various sizes, ranging in price from \$85 to \$300, and each simple, strong and powerful. His Horse Power & Threshing Machine, he is prepared to supply at the low price of \$125 complete; Threshing Machines without the horse power, according to size, at \$30, 40, 65 and \$75; Improved Seed and Corn Plant Portable Tobacco Press; Portable Grist Mills complete, \$125.

BONE-DUST AND POUDRETTE ESTABLISHMENT.

On Harris' Creek, at Canton, Baltimore.

THOMAS BANES, continues the manufacture of POUDRETTE, and is prepared to supply any orders for the same.—The article manufactured by him, will be found probably more valuable than any made in the Eastern cities. His BONE-DUST weighs from 55 to 60 lbs. to the bushel, and is as fine as any article sold in this market. Price of Bone Dust, 55 cents per bushel. Poudrette, \$1.20 per barrel. Persons sending their carts or wagons to the factory, can obtain the Poudrette at 20 cents per bushel.

Any orders left at the factory, or with Mr. S. SANDS, editor of the "Farmer," at the State Agricultural Society's Rooms, will receive immediate attention. Terms, cash.
my 1-tf.

PREPARED GUANO.

THIS is not an adulteration of the imported guano, but a compound of some eight domestic permanent and well known fertilizers, Bone Dust being a component part thereof. Having been appointed, by Kentish & Co., of New York, as Agent for the sale of this article, we are now prepared to furnish it to farmers and gardeners at New York prices.

Price \$30 per ton.
E. WHITMAN, Jr.,
Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,
Cor. of Light and Pratt st., Baltimore.
my 1



PLOUGHS.

DEWITT & MEARS', Ruggles, Nourse & Mason's, Minor & Horton's, Chenoweth's, Davis', Woodcock's, Sinclair Moore's, New York Ploughs, &c. &c., for sale by

E. WHITMAN, Jr.,
Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,
Cor. of Light and Pratt st., Baltimore.

SOUTH DOWNS.—A gentleman on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, will deliver in Baltimore, to any person designated, after the 1st of August, Ram Lambs, full bred South-down blood, at ten dollars each—3-4ths, 7-8ths, and 15-16ths, at 5 dollars. No shipment without the money first paid. Apply, postage paid, to S. SANDS, Office of the Farmer.
June 21, 1849. Jy 1-1t*

WHEAT FANS.

FRANT'S, Bamfborough's, Strong's, Rice's, Hayford's, and all good Fans, will be kept for sale by us, this season, as low as can be bought in the State.

E. WHITMAN,
Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,
Corner of Light and Pratt street, Baltimore.

FOR SALE.—100 bushels of BONE SHAVINGS—by R. BALL,
East Falls Avenue, near the Bridge, Baltimore.
Feb 1-tf

Sinclair & Co's Double-acting Fanning Mill, is, probably, the most rapid chaffing fan in this country. They have also, separating attachments, which separate from the wheat garlic, cheat, cockle, &c., most effectually. Price \$25, \$30 and \$35.
R. SINCLAIR, JR. & Co.,
 aug 1 Light-st., near Pratt, Balto.

CHAPPELL'S FERTILIZER.

SINCE the publication of the July number of the American Farmer, by which we presented the certificates and recommendation of some of the first agriculturists of the State, we have received from other sources as encouraging accounts of the favorable effects produced by the use of our **FERTILIZING SALTS**, and largely increased orders from those who have used the article. This is the best evidence we desire of its success, and it gives us much more pleasure to hear of its success, than to make sales.

We consider the article as no longer an experiment, having been thoroughly and satisfactorily tested, and proving greatly remunerative in the increased yield of crop.

On *Wheat and Clover* applied last fall, the experiments have been very numerous and successful, the increased yield of clover alone fully compensating for the outlay. When used sufficiently early in the season as a *top-dressing* on wheat, the result has been successful; where this has not been the case, the advantage on clover will fully remunerate for the outlay later in the season; this will be manifest to all who have used it in this way. On *Oats*, applied this spring, the effect and increased yield has given very general satisfaction. On *Corn*, its effect when used in the hill, so far show very well for the article. When used on corn, and *strewed broadcast*, where it has had sufficient rain, its effect is fully confirmed, and we have every indication that the crop will continue to improve until harvest. On *Timothy, Potatoes and garden vegetables*, the experiments have been very successful.

We have several additional certificates, and letters of recommendation, which we shall publish in pamphlet form, and hereafter in the "American Farmer," and now only refer to those published in the May and July numbers of the American Farmer.

In conclusion, we beg leave to add, that the article has far exceeded our expectations, and we can with increased confidence recommend it to agriculturists, as the *cheapest and most available* manure they can use.

Pamphlets, containing directions as to its application can be procured at the office of the undersigned, who are prepared to furnish the "Fertilizing Salts" in any quantity, and upon the following terms, viz: *Cash*, or approved city acceptances for sums over \$50.

On ordering the article, be particular to send for "**CHAPPELL'S FERTILIZER**." Price \$20 per ton of 2000 lbs., in barrels of 300 lbs. each.

P. S. CHAPPELL, } Patentees,
Wm. H. CHAPPELL, }

Office (up stairs) cor. of Hanover and Lombard-st., Baltimore-Md.
 aug 1

AGRICULTURE.

THE Subscriber offers his services to the Agriculturists, for the purpose of examining farms, analyzing soil, giving advice on agricultural subjects, and for purchasing on commission, for clubs or individuals, Guano and Agricultural Salts, of every description and quantity, in this or other ports, as may be to the interest of Agriculturists.

The subscriber will be found at the Farmers' Club room, Baltimore street, or No. 2 North Liberty st. All letters (post paid) addressed to the subscriber will be attended to.
 aug 1-St* **WM. BAER, Agricultural Chemist.**

LIME.

THE subscribers are prepared to furnish Building and Agricultural Lime at the depot on the Back Basin, corner of Eden and Lancaster-sts., which they will warrant to give satisfaction, it being burnt from pure Alum Lime Stone, equal to any found in the United States. Orders may be left with **WILLIAM ROBINSON**, No. 13 Hollingsworth-street, near Pratt.
 feb. 1-14. **FELL & ROBINSON City Block**

GUANO.

PERUVIAN and PATAGONIAN GUANO just received and now landing.

We are now receiving a large supply of **PERUVIAN and PATAGONIAN GUANO**, very dry and of superior quality, neatly put up in bags of from 150 to 200 lbs each, with Inspector's brand, which we offer to dealers and agriculturists, in quantities to suit, at very lowest market rates.

P. MALCOM & CO.,
 Dealers in Grain, Seeds, Flour, &c.,
 No. 1 Wood street, Bowly's Wharf,
 aug 1-St

KETTLEWELL & DAVISON'S RENOVATOR, PLASTER and GROUND OYSTER SHELLS.

THE undersigned have now on hand a supply for the demand of their "RENOVATOR," or Fertilizing Plaster, the improvement of land. Also, **GROUND PLASTER**, from adulteration, and **GROUND OYSTER SHELLS**, verized as fine as the plaster without being burnt.

The undersigned will, in a very few days, transmit, by mail, to subscribers of the American Farmer, a pamphlet containing full explanations of the proper mode of using their "Renovator," as also certificates of the extraordinary results it has produced, from the most successful and experienced agriculturists of the State. For sale at their Agricultural Store, Hamburg street, Federal Hill, and at their office, corner Lombard and Hanover street, at Ober & McConkey's Wholesale Drug Store, who are also agents for them.
 aug 1 **KETTLEWELL & DAVISON**

NEW OXFORDSHIRE LONG WOOLLED YEARLING BUCKS FOR SALE.

THE subscriber has now from 30 to 40 yearling bucks, which he will sell at any time when called for, and concluded not to hold another annual sale.

This flock (which has been bred from some of the best imported,) is so well known they need no further description than to say that they continue to yield their very heavy fleeces—from 9 to 14 lbs. of washed wool, and when full rained weigh upwards of 300 pounds.
 Gentlemen are invited to call and see for themselves, and communicate by mail. Direct to
CLAYTON B. REYNOLDS
 Delaware City, Del., July 1, 1849

FRUIT TREES, GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS, &c.

TOGETHER with all AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.
MAXFIELD, MOTT & Co.
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Orders for almost every article wanted by the Farmer, met promptly attended to, at the shortest notice, and delivered free of charge to any part of the city.

**LEVI MAXFIELD,
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They will constantly keep on hand, **FOR SALE**—Blithe's Lever Horse Powers and Thrashers, Corn Shell Straw Cutters, &c. Edge & Cope's Endless Chain Re Powers and Thrashers; Pennock's celebrated Pioneer Drill and Wheat Fan. Also the Delaware Self-Sharpening Premium Ploughs. They are Agents for the New York Minor and Horton's, and the Empire Plough Castings.

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